

A Minister's Journal

John Paul Strain

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A MINISTER'S JOURNAL is an interior monologue on what it is like to be a minister of a church. Incidents and occasions are described as little vignettes telling of the work of a minister, the role he is expected to play, and the spiritual tasks he is to perform. He is interpreter of the word, petitioner in prayer, visitor to the sick, counselor to the bewildered, officiate of the deceased, and pastor to the flock. These tasks are executed in the context of a social expectancy of what a minister is supposed to be-a spiritual and high minded person. But the expectancy is not always met, either in the mind of the minister or the minds of parishioners. Sometimes it is veiled in the secrecies of a hidden life. This is often the case with clergy persons. The congregation sees one side of the individual while not knowing the other. Sometimes it is shown through wrong decisions and mistake made in carrying out tasks. Sometimes it is displayed in open conflicts with church leaders over religious and personal issues. The road a minister has to walk is not an easy one. It is narrow and often bumpy because of the fine line between the spiritual and the human.



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