

**A reading from a letter written by Bishop Charles K. Gilbert when Frances Perkins consulted him about whether she should accept the position of United States Secretary of Labor. He was the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, serving from 1947 to 1950. He served as suffragan bishop from 1930 to 1946.**

I really believe that it is God's own call. If it is you can't refuse. I can appreciate the sacrifice that may be involved—for you personally and for those whose feelings you are bound to consider. Perhaps no one will know the price you have to pay for the privilege of rendering the difficult service that is demanded of you. Men will think only of the great distinction that comes with the high office to which you go. They will be quite unmindful of the fact that there would be no distinction in that office did it not carry with it a crushing burden of responsibility. But, if it is a job to which God has assigned you, what man thinks is of no consequence. And, if the assignment is His, He will help you to see it through; and He will take care of the domestic problems which may be presented.

George Martin, *Madam Secretary: Frances Perkins*. (Houghton Mifflin Company, 1975), 238.