

Volunteers make post Chapel full-service facility

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Dedicated Volunteers make Carlisle Barracks Chapel a full-service facility



Margaret Lippi (left), assistant sacristan, and (right) Carole Mineo, sacristan, prepare the Post chapel altar for Mass. Mineo, a Post Chapel volunteer since 2003, donates over 20 hours per week to assist the Catholic Chaplain. Photo by Suzanne Reynolds.

Dec. 16, 2008 -- One individual who has volunteered at the chapel more years than he served on active duty is **retired Maj. Don Shultz**. Shultz, 84, and a Carlisle resident, is a three-war

veteran.

He retired from the Army in 1969 from Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, Pa., where he was the first officer in charge of the U.S. Army Adjutant General Field Office.

Since volunteering at the chapel for more than 30 years, Shultz has been a Sunday school teacher, Sunday school superintendant, an acolyte coordinator and Protestant Youth of the Chapel coordinator to name a few. "I do everything but preach," said Shultz.

"My wife told me after I retired that I would not be sitting around the house doing nothing." "It is something to do and something I want to do." "It is one big happy family," Shultz said.

Asked why he does this, Shultz said, "I am so fortunate because the Army has been my life." "We found a happy home and we just want to give back."

"About 623 chapel volunteers literally do everything from setting up to cleaning up, teaching, training, leading, cooking, organizing, singing, playing and filling in wherever a need arises," said **Ch. (Col.) Arthur Pace**,

installation chaplain. "Over 19,000 volunteer hours are logged each year just for chapel events."

"Because our staff is so small, without volunteers, we could offer very little beyond basic services on Sunday mornings," said Pace. "We could not even offer Sunday School or CCD or even collect offerings or have them counted without our volunteer ushers."

Carole Mineo, a volunteer at the chapel since 2003, has been the Catholic sacristant since 2005. In this position, she prepares the altar with proper linen, prepares the vessels and liturgy books, lights the candles and more. Mineo donates more than 20 hours per week to assist the Catholic Chaplain.

"It is very time consuming, but I love doing it," said Mineo. "It makes me feel valuable and needed."

Mineo has three assistants who help in completing these daily tasks, **Margaret Lippi, Cheryl Chun and Ann Mangol**.

Lippi who became a chapel volunteer in 1980, became an assistant sacristant in 2003, again, giving over 20 hours of her time.

"I look forward to coming to the chapel every day," she said.

"We really love what we are doing," said Carole Mineo. "It is rewarding and very uplifting."

"They are wonderful," said **Ch. (Col.) Philip Mahalic**, the Post Catholic chaplain. "They are here all the time—just conscientious, dedicated ladies."

"These volunteers allow us to be a full-service chapel, offering a wide variety of services and programs for our parishioners that rival any civilian church," said Pace. "This has a direct and significant impact on the quality of life at Carlisle Barracks."

"Because of the wide breadth of programs and opportunities, almost 75,000 people each year participate in chapel events," said Pace.