

Volunteers are important in post chapel

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Carlisle Barracks volunteers are important in post's operation

Dedication makes Post Chapel a full-service facility



Margaret Lippi, assistant sacristan, and Carole Mineo, sacristan, prepare the post chapel altar for Mass. Both donate more than 20 hours per week. Photo by Suzanne Reynolds.

Dec. 22, 2008 -- A three-war veteran has given more years in volunteer service at the post chapel than he served in his full military career.

Since volunteering at the chapel for more than 30 years, retired Maj. Don Shultz, 84, has been a Sunday school teacher and superintendant, an acolyte coordinator and Protestant Youth of the Chapel coordinator, to name a few. "I do everything but preach," he said.

"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. "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 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 has been the Catholic sacristan 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.

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 sacristan in 2003, and also gives more than 20 hours of service weekly.

“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, 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,” 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.”

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