



From the Pastor's Desk:

Last evening I attended the opening of the "Time Capsule" buried 25 years ago on the 100th Anniversary of the Lindenhurst Fire Department. It was an exciting time as people watched anxiously to see what was inside and who left what back then. There was a video played afterward in the firehouse of the event as it took place. The articles were removed and besides memorabilia of the 100th Anniversary there were photos and objects important to people at the time. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE LINDENHURST FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR YOUR COURAGEOUS AND UNSELFISH SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE OF LINDENHURST IN THEIR TIMES OF NEED. MAY GOD +BLESS YOU AND MAY YOUR WORK CONTINUE TO PROSPER FOR MANY MORE YEARS TO COME. MAY YOU KNOW OF GOD'S LOVE FOR YOUR WORK AND BE AWARE OF HIS PRESENCE TO GUIDE AND PROTECT YOU IN ALL THAT YOU DO. YOURS IS A WORK OF COMPASSION AND LOVE. On behalf of the people of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church I thank you and offer you our prayers of thanksgiving.

Well inside the capsule was a copy of the July 28, 1985 parish bulletin and a letter from Monsignor Hamilton (who had just arrived here as Pastor) thanking the department for its 100 years of service and listing the Pastors of DLPH from 1873 – 1985. The bulletin and letter will be on display at the Fire House during its upcoming 125th Anniversary celebrations. If the video is playing you just have to watch it and take a look at our great Pastor Emeritus in all his youthfulness and usual community support as he began his tenure as Pastor of DLPH.

I would like for us to reflect on the Lindenhurst Fire Department's "voluntary" service to our community and apply it to everyone's call to "voluntary service". The word "voluntary" in itself is deep in meaning. Not surprisingly from the Latin verb "voluntare" and "volunt" a willingness or inclination, a desire to act or do something, making a willing choice. So when there is a call for help an opportunity is opened up for us to consider doing something for someone or some organization (the Fire Department or the Church, or any other person or group) without hesitation because there is a natural inclination to volunteer or at least ask ourselves, how can I help?

We have seen volunteerism decline over the years. A partial reason for this is that volunteers became less and less willing or able to devote the time that volunteering often requires. Many times volunteer positions turned into paid positions in order to have more commitment. While that might not be a bad idea on the one hand, can you imagine if the people of Lindenhurst had to "pay" for the salaries of each of our Lindenhurst Fire Department firemen and women and the EMT services "freely" given? We here at DLPH have seen the financial struggle when volunteer positions become paid positions. It exhausts the funds available, and, as in the case of the LFD, it would be an incredible financial burden on the community.

When someone volunteers, making the free choice to reach out in service to others we are all truly blessed. As we join in celebrating the 125 years of continuous voluntary service to our community by the men and women of the Lindenhurst Fire Department I want to add a special THANK YOU to the hundreds of volunteers who have contributed much over the years to the development and growth of our parish church and school. It takes many hours of selfless service to make a great parish and to continue the task of education in a great school. THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU to all who have served God through service to our parish church and school.

In particular at this time, I want to recognize the work of our **Catholic School Parents Association** who over the years and to today have worked hard to raise funds for the continuation of our School. Thank you to the men and women of the **St. Vincent de Paul Society** who minister to the needs of hundreds of individuals and families, giving their volunteer time freely to the needs of the poor of our parish. Thank you to the women of our **Confraternity of Christian Mothers and Guild** who likewise volunteer their time whenever we call upon them to sponsor a farewell for one of our priests or for a special occasion of the parish. Thank you to our **Holy Name Society** men who likewise have served the needs of the parish whenever asked. And a Thank You to those who continue to volunteer in service to our Youth in **Religious Education and Youth Ministry**; you are all a blessing to our children and their families. Thank You to our **Legion of Mary** who daily reach out to bring Christ and His Blessed Mother into the homes of our families, a true and selfless effort in evangelization. Thank You to all who serve as **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** at Mass and to the homebound and sick of our parish family. Thank You as well to our **Ushers** who have been serving freely for many, many years as greeters and collectors. And to our many **Altar Servers** who have served over the years at the Altar of the Lord, assisting the priests and deacons at the Liturgy. Thanks You to our **Lectors** for proclaiming the Word of God at our Liturgies. Thank You to ALL who have volunteered in ANY capacity over the years making this a holy and life-giving parish in our Diocese and in the Church throughout the world.

What would we do without VOLUNTEERS... I have no idea... but I do know we could NEVER PAY or REPAY you for all you have done. What I do know is this ... that God sees what you do and have done... and "your reward will be great in heaven." And remember that "...whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me, says the Lord."

May God +bless you and yours now and forever.

Father Anthony