



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot reached out to Kaylie McMahon, Trucksville, who was held by her mother, Patti. He and Fr. John Lambert of Gate of Heaven Church greeted worshippers after Sunday's noon Mass.

Haiti

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The U.S. intervention has not helped, and perhaps has hurt. "The Haitian people used to be under a dictatorship, and would like to enjoy freedom," Archbishop Miot said. But the country hasn't made the transition to democracy. "It was a misunderstanding

by the U.S. government. They wanted to make the country stable," he said. "Unfortunately, they did not really understand the situation." A U.S. led embargo on outside intervention and investment has made the misery worse. "We have a political crisis

since that point," he said. "It grows worse and worse every day."

The main point of the U.S. effort was to promote democratic elections. But now, "we're not sure there will be a new election. We need an election to change the situation," said the Archbishop.

Volunteers

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help with that, it would be great." "We're always open to new members," said Shawn Mullen, membership secretary at Trucksville Volunteer Fire Co. "I just always wanted to be a fireman," said Shawn. He added that in addition to running a web page for the department (www.trucksvillefire.com) he'll also be working on public relations and fund raising when the Match Box replica of their newest engine goes on sale this spring.

"If a person doesn't want to be a firefighter, there are lots of other things to do for a fire department," said Brian Johnson, Trucksville's chief for the last nine years. "We need volunteers for administrative jobs and fundraising activities, too. Last year we got a new volunteer every month and if we can keep three of those 12 as active members, I'll be happy."

Many current volunteers noted that they are involved because they had family members who were volunteers, but that is not always the case. "I think what really sparked it for me was a CPR course that I took in high school when I was a member of my school's emergency squad," said Harvey's Lake volunteer fireman and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Joe Perugino. "You don't get a lot of thanks, but my gratification is knowing that I made a positive difference in someone's welfare."

Volunteers spend many hours in training and at calls, Perugino noted. "After my parents needed ambulance service because of a minor accident my mom told me she would never, ever again complain about me running out to a call. You just never know who is waiting for an ambulance to respond and what if no volunteer could go?" he asked.

Kunkle Fire and Ambulance, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year, has about 30 active members—about the same number they had 10-15 years ago—but the number of calls has



POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN

Tom and Susan Davis are both EMT's with the Kunkle Fire and Ambulance Co.

increased over the years. Their door is always open for new volunteers.

Emergency Medical Technicians must complete a five-month course and need to be recertified every three years. That is the minimum training allowed for ambulance personnel. "You have to be a professional even though you're a volunteer," said Jack Dodson, Kunkle's chief for 28 years. "We've just had five new EMT's complete their training," he added.

Not all interested volunteers need to take this route, though. "I think that there's a place for everybody in the fire department. People in the community need to feel that it is a community project," said Dodson, whose wife, two daughters, and son-in-law are also volunteers. "We have a few husband and wife teams that are also involved," he said.

"I've helped out at the bingos, chicken dinners and chicken bar-

becus that the fire company has every year. This spring I'll be helping with the craft show we've just scheduled," said Susan Davis, R.N., EMT. "Then, about seven years ago I decided to become an EMT like my husband."

Tom Davis has been an EMT in Kunkle since the couple moved there about 12 years ago. "I'm retired now and it's good to see the younger kids get involved," said Davis.

Some of the local fire companies actively recruit young teenagers. Kunkle has a Junior Fire Personnel Program for anyone 16 years of age. "So many young people don't have anything to do. This gives them a place to go and a way to do something for their community," said Chief Dodson.

So, no matter what your age, whether you are male or female, skilled as a firefighter or a fundraiser or a bookkeeper, your community fire department is calling out to you.

Ambulance assoc. accepting members

The Sweet Valley Ambulance Association, Inc. 2000 Annual Membership Drive is now underway. Anyone who has not received a membership packet in the mail should call 477-5239. Rates are \$20 for husband and wife and any unmarried children up to the age of 21. \$15 for any widow or widower or any single person over the age of 21.

Non-members will be required to pay all ambulance service fees not covered by an insurance company. Those without insurance will be responsible for full payment of service fees. Members pay nothing more than the annual membership fee collected annually.

Noxen Bible Baptist Church hosts concert

The Dublin Christian Academy Chorale will present a concert of sacred music and drama at Noxen Bible Baptist Church on March 27, at 7 p.m. The Chorale, an award-winning group of 28 high school students that attend Dublin Christian Academy in Dublin, New Hampshire, tours the northeast United States each year as part of the school's fine art ministry.

This year's program "Our Great Salvation," centers on the Children of Israel's escape from Egypt and their entry into the promised land of Canaan. A variety of music traditions ranging from baroque and neoclassical to Negro spiritual and traditional hymns is presented. For further information or directions to Noxen Bible Baptist Church, call 298-2030.

NEPA Philharmonic schedules concert

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic will embrace some of Mozart's most beloved and famous works. The evening will begin with the light and melodious styling of *The Marriage of Figaro Overture* and the *Horn Concerto No. 3*, then ends with the hauntingly tragic *Symphony No. 40*. A performance is scheduled for Saturday, March 25, at the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are available by calling the Philharmonics box office at 457-8301.



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