

ARCHBISHOP HARRY FLYNN

**THIS WEEK'S COLUMN**

August 18, 2005

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## **Mass to honor emergency personnel**

All through my life, I have had a great deal of respect for law enforcement and emergency personnel such as firefighters.

I believe that deep respect comes from the fact that one of my favorite uncles, Ed Flynn, my father's brother, was a police officer. Two of my brothers followed in his stead and became police officers. They are all now deceased. However, a nephew just retired as a police officer.

Being from a family which was very devoted to that line of work made me very much aware of the dangers which are theirs and the apparent lack of appreciation on the part of the public for those who serve so valiantly.

I would like to invite you to a Mass of thanksgiving and remembrance for law enforcement and emergency personnel, which I will celebrate at the Cathedral of St. Paul on Saturday, Sept. 10, at 10 a.m.

This Mass, known as the Blue Mass, is a noble tradition that the Galtier Society, an association of Catholic professionals in the Twin Cities, has encouraged me to revive, and I gladly do so, in cooperation with our Office for Family, Laity, Youth and Young Adults.

Accordingly, I have invited the men and women representatives of law enforcement and emergency personnel throughout the Twin Cities.

Very often in our everyday lives, we take for granted the safety and support that law enforcement and emergency personnel provide for us. At times of crisis, situations can be so intense or emotional that we do not remember to properly take the opportunity or time to show our appreciation and gratitude.

I would like our archdiocese to take this opportunity to come together publicly to thank all of our civic servants who look after our safety.

Following a presentation of the colors, we will pray for the well-being of all who serve our community in this way, and remember those who have fallen in the line of duty.

On that weekend, the fourth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, we especially want to recall and remember these fallen heroes and their families.

Please join us for the Mass and a short reception following.