



SAINT JUDE AND THE MEADOW BROOK BANK (Bringing People *To Freeport* and not just *Through Freeport*)



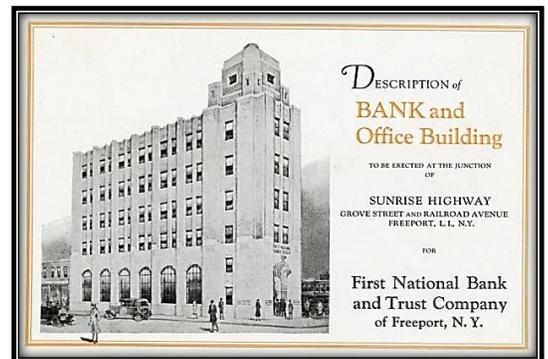
Twenty-eight October 2017 came and went and so too did 28 October 1867. The significance of the two dates for Catholics is the same: the Feast of Saint Simon and Saint Jude. Of those two Saints, Saint Jude of course is the best known to us. So often have we called upon him for “hopeless causes”. Perhaps introduced to us by our parents because at one point or another in our lives (hopefully not now) we were the “hopeless cause” they asked Saint Jude to pray for.

There is however another connection between the two dates for Catholics and non-Catholics who call Freeport, New York their home. Do you know what that significance is? I didn't; that was until Sunday morning (29 October 2017) when after Mass, while I was sitting in the Rectory dining room discussing “my ideas” for the Meadow Brook Bank building on Sunrise Highway; an idea that I believe would bring people to Freeport and not just through Freeport. That idea: move (or extend) the Freeport Train Station platform westward and connect it to the Freeport Bank. Restore the building and prepare it to become the Penn Station of Long Island. Business owners could set up shop to offer the food and drink that you can find in an internet bar (Freeport has enough of those other bars.) Office space could be offered on the upper floors with a Windows on the World type view of South Freeport and beyond the Nautical Mile. Down below, the bus terminal can return to take people from the train to the mile or the beach. Anyway ...

It was in discussing that idea that I was prompted to find out when the train tracks in Freeport were elevated, and it was during that search that I discovered the significance of 28 October 1867. It was that date (according to Wikipedia (perhaps you could ask Regina Feeney to verify it for us)) when “Freeport station was originally built by the [South Side Railroad of Long Island](#).” According to that same website, Freeport Station “was rebuilt in 1899 and is among many of the stations along the Babylon Branch that were elevated throughout Nassau and Western Suffolk counties during the 1960s, in this case October 1960.”

This may not be your typical Pastor's Message but then again, “what is a typical Pastor's Message?” Or for that matter, “what is a typical Pastor?” Perhaps this passage from the Second Vatican Council document *Lumen Gentium* can help answer those questions.

“Let them, as fathers in Christ, take care of the faithful whom they have begotten by Baptism and their teaching. Becoming from the heart a pattern to the flock, let them so lead and serve their local community that it may worthily be called by that name, by which the one and entire people of God is signed, namely, the Church of God. Let them remember that by their daily life and interests they are showing the face of a truly sacerdotal and pastoral ministry to the faithful and the infidel, to Catholics and non-Catholics, and that to all they bear witness to the truth and life, and as good shepherds go after those also, who though baptized in the Catholic Church have fallen away from the use of the sacraments, or even from the faith. Because the human race today is joining more and more into a civic, economic and social unity, it is that much the more necessary that priests, by combined effort and aid, under the leadership of the bishops and the Supreme Pontiff, wipe out every kind of separateness, so that the whole human race may be brought into the unity of the family of God” (*Lumen Gentium* 28). ... “Remembering that in every temporal affair they must be guided by a Christian conscience, since even in secular business there is no human activity which can be withdrawn from God's dominion” (*Lumen Gentium* 36).



The Church's interests extend far beyond the boundaries of our Parish. They reach through Her members into nursing homes and hospitals, day care centers and schools, village halls and concert halls, police departments and fire departments, basketball courts and courts of law. And if getting these places to get on or stay on the right track seems like an impossible cause, then: Saint Jude, pray for us.