

## ***From Your Directing Chaplain, Fr. Dan Brandt...***

We have a new guardian angel in blue. On 24 FEB, Detective Geoff Woitel, 49 years old, lost his battle with cancer. Having the honor of calling Geoff a friend, I was truly touched to witness the vast sea of CPD brothers and sisters gathered outside his house for a prayer service at the time of his death. Thank you to the hundreds who participated. May Geoff rest in peace!



Sadly, we also lost a brother to suicide on the first day of this month. Echoing the superintendent's words that tragic morning, please check in with one another and keep each other close as we cope with this grief together. May James also rest in peace.

On a far happier note, our officers often cheat death, thank God. One such instance occurred on 04 JUL 2020, when Officers David Suarez and Gabriel Bikoma were seriously injured in a horrific squad car accident at Chicago Avenue and Pulaski Road. A police-supporting organization called "Quilts for Cops" prayerfully crafted handmade quilts for these officers, which we presented to them last month.



Here you'll see Officer Suarez accepting his beautiful quilt with gratitude to Quilts for Cops and CPD Chaplain Hysni Selenica, who distributes the quilts. To see photos of other Quilts for Cops presentations, visit the "Photo Album" page on our website ([www.ChicagoPCM.org](http://www.ChicagoPCM.org)).

As we hit the one-year mark since life as we know it has changed, we realize the need to be cautiously optimistic for a return to normalcy. Optimism and hope are two very important components when

dealing with a situation like our world has been experiencing these past 12 months or so.

Christians around the world are currently celebrating the season of Lent. Whether you're Christian or not, I encourage you to step back, look at the blessings you've received over the past year (despite current circumstances), thank our Creator for them, and renew your sense of hope that together we will get through these strange times.

Winston Churchill put it this way: "Never give in—never, never, never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense." Don't lose hope.

Millenia prior, Jeremiah the Old Testament prophet nuanced this same message: "I know the plan I have for you, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

And I've put it this way on many occasions: THERE IS LIGHT AT THE END OF EVERY TUNNEL.

A Blue Mass will be hosted by St. John Fisher Parish at 103<sup>rd</sup> and Washtenaw on Sunday, 21 MAR, at 11:00 a.m. More information about the parish can be found at [www.StJohnFisherParish.net](http://www.StJohnFisherParish.net).

Finally, please remember that if we in the Chaplains' Section can provide ANY support, a boost of hope, or a confidential non-judgmental ear: don't ever hesitate to call on us. Our numbers are listed in your CPD directory. We can also be contacted through our website: [www.ChicagoPCM.org](http://www.ChicagoPCM.org). Also confidential and non-judgmental are the licensed professional counselors at our Employee Assistance Program. They can be reached 24/7 at 312/743-0378.

Keep warm, safe and healthy. God bless you and your family as you do His work!

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