

Fr. Dan Brandt's Corner...



Thank you to the **CPD Survivors Group**, who hosted a **resource night** last month. Lined up were many programs, resources, outreaches and information beneficial to department members. Hundreds of visitors also enjoyed terrific food and



drink, live music and great raffle prizes. Even **Cardinal Cupich**, Archbishop of Chicago, stopped by to offer his blessing. More information on the free and confidential services that CPD Survivors offer to department members and retirees can be found at www.ChicagoPoliceSurvivors.com.

Attention married couples, active or retired: The Chaplains Unit is gauging interest in a **couples' retreat** to be held this Sweetest Day (weekend of 20-22 OCT). If you and your spouse would be interested in attending, please email Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis at Kimberly.LewisDavis@chicagopolice.org or call 312-771-6638.

Lent began on Ash Wednesday, the first day of this month. As we progress through this holy season, please remember--no matter your faith tradition--you're *always* welcome to worship at the **police Mass** every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at Mercy Home, 1140 W. Jackson Blvd. (Please note that on Easter Sunday, 16 APR, like on all holidays, our Mass is moved up to 10:00 a.m.) Mass is kept under 30 minutes for those who would like to attend during their lunch break.

The new Police Chaplains Ministry **challenge coins** are now available. This new mint honors the 575 fallen officers whose names are inscribed on the memorial wall...as well as the Gold Star Families who so profoundly miss their loved ones. Order yours on our website's "Merchandise" page, or by contacting PO Gia DiVito at Gia.DiVito@ChicagoPolice.org.



A benefit is planned to assist several officers whose financial situations are affected as a result of their service to the community and some severe scrutiny that followed. See you at **Back the Blue on Sunday**, 19 MAR, 1-6 p.m. at 115 Bourbon Street!

Finally, a heartwarming true story from a recent experience... **Karolina Stepek**, a CPD member who contracted Leukemia while still a PPO, passed away last month after a long sickness. Having had visited her in the hospital a number of times, I was given the honor of celebrating her funeral Mass. She was a Polish immigrant, and did not live in Chicago very long...so she didn't have much time to establish a strong support system here. Therefore I worried that there might not be a crowded church when her family arrived from Poland for her funeral. Well, word got out as it so often does, and there was a VERY full church that morning. After the funeral, which was on the north side, I asked a south-side officer I

bumped into if he had worked with Karolina. *His answer? "No. I've never met her. I just wanted to pray for her and have her family walk into a full church this morning."*

This is just one example of why I am so proud and honored to be a part of the CPD family.

God bless you and your vocation. Know always that you are doing God's work!

Fr. Dan Brandt, CPD Chaplain

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