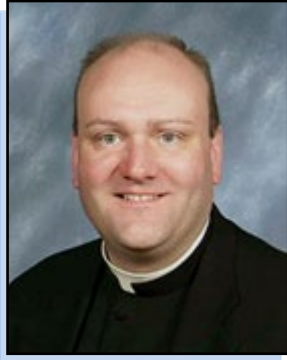


From Your Directing Chaplain, Fr. Dan Brandt...



As you well know, these are not easy times! From a worldwide pandemic to nationwide violence, civil unrest and a common liberal anti-police sentiment stoked by some legislators, doing your God-ordained work has never been tougher. Reporting to work can seem like quite a daunting task.



However...as I try to remind you daily when possible: please never lose sight of the fact that YOU ARE DOING GOD'S WORK, and our Creator smiles on you for it.

We are here for you (see our numbers below)...and so is our EAP professional counseling service. They are a terrific (and confidential) resource that is available 24/7 at 312-743-0378.

A **CPD SPOUSES' RESOURCE GROUP** is available. If your spouse would like to participate in this group, which meets monthly in a central location, please let me know and I'll put you in touch with the group's chairperson.

In the event your marriage lacks the spark it once had, I'd like to share with you a marriage resource, offered by the Church...please check out our website's links page (www.ChicagoPCM.org) or www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

If the CPD Chaplains can ever be of ANY assistance/support to CPD members, retirees or families, please don't hesitate to call on us: Chaplain Bob Montelongo (773/459-5089), Chaplain Joe Jackson (312/771-6684), Chaplain Hysni Selenica (312/771-6692), Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis (312/771-6638), Rabbi Moshe Wolf (773/463-4780), or me (773/550-2369). All of these numbers (also listed in your FOP directory under "Chaplains") are cell phones and receive text messages. You can also email us through the chaplains' website.



Last month (08 JAN) at a fundraiser, I met up with the Ramaglia Brothers, Joe and Frank. Combined, they boast almost 50 years of CPD service. Can you think of any souls more worth saving than theirs? Thank you, gents, for doing God's work...as thankless as it can be at times!

If you happen to be reading this before 10 FEB, please join us for the Upper Room Club at Pizano's (21st and Indiana). If you're reading this after that date, please send me an email so I can add you to our monthly prayer/Bible study/faith-sharing group invitation list.

Don't forget our regular twice-monthly police Masses offered at Mercy Home. In order to allow for social distancing, these Masses are celebrated in the indoor soccer field at Adams and Aberdeen. Mass is held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 11:00 a.m. and, for the sake of on-duty worshippers, is kept under 30 minutes. Please join us!

This month (13 FEB), we mark the four-year anniversary of **Commander Paul Bauer's** murder. As I stated at his funeral Mass (and since), Paul's life wasn't "given," as so many outlets stated. It was TAKEN. It was STOLEN from his family and us by a four-time convicted felon who should have NEVER been on the street.

The name of Paul's murderer has already been forgotten...and this coward will spend the rest of his miserable life in prison with no chance for parole. But Paul Bauer's name and legacy, along with his wife Erin and daughter Grace, will ALWAYS be remembered.



Memorial cards from Paul's funeral (and many of our LOD funerals) are available for download from our website (ChicagoPCM.org). If you'd like one mailed to you, just let me know...my contact info is below.

We will honor Paul once again at a ceremony at Park Community Church in 018 on Sunday, 13 FEB, at 1:30 p.m. All are welcome!

On 24 FEB we mark the one-year anniversary of Detective Geoff Woitel's passing. Please take a moment as you read this column to remember him and all our departed members: May they rest in peace.

Ash Wednesday is 02 MAR. In keeping with time-honored tradition, CPD Chaplains will distribute blessed ashes at various locations throughout the city. The schedule will be posted in the daily bulletin and on our website.



Finally...a challenge: I bumped into my old friend, Detective Pat O'Connor, a few weeks ago during weekly Wednesday rounds through the districts. I first met Pat ten years ago on a robbery job he had at a Dollar Store when he was a PO in 009. If you email me with the correct location of THIS meet, I'll send you a CPD Chaplains Ministry challenge coin. (Hint: it's a police-friendly Mexican restaurant across the street from Kelly High School in 009). Good luck! I hope to give away a lot of challenge coins on this one.

Keep up with all of our happenings on our FaceBook page or website (www.ChicagoPCM.org).

God bless you as you continue to do God's work. Please stay safe and healthy! Know that active or retired, you're in our daily prayers.

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