



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

I had ankle surgery in February, which knocked me down for just over a month. I was still able to work (almost) my usual routine from my home office...just not able to walk very easily or drive a car.

I was AMAZED at how many of our officers, bosses, PCM donors, friends and others reached out to assure me, "Please let me if you need anything." Some even said, "Maybe a run to the grocery store? You name it!"

I am not accustomed to being on the *receiving* end of a genuine offer for help. It is very humbling. And it made me realize that Police Chaplains Ministry, while always giving to our officers and Gold Star Families, is definitely ON THE RECEIVING END of **your constant** service and kindness.

We love seeing you in the districts, on the street, at hospitals/wakes/funerals (unfortunately), and so many other places. Please never lose sight of the fact that YOU ARE DOING GOD'S WORK.

My little setback served as a reminder to take care of number one. As you've heard at trainings, "Put the oxygen mask on yourself before helping those around you." I've learned recently how true that adage is.

I've also learned an important lesson on GRATITUDE. Thank you to all who have been so kind...offering assistance, groceries, laundry, Binny's runs (ha!), prayers, whatever!!

Finally, my (our!) dear old friend Phil Haskett (CPD, retired) passed away recently. He was a policeman for over three decades and—until death—a very active Peer Support member. If you wish to pay your respects, I will join his family at Cumberland Chapels on the northwest side Friday, 01 MAY, at 6:00 p.m. The following morning, Saturday, 02 MAY, we will lay him to rest at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines. Of course, all of his friends/fans are most welcome to come and see him off.

Next month is not only our St. Jude March (03 MAY), but also the Springfield and Washington Police Memorials. To those of you traveling: *first*, THANKS! What a blessing to have amazing support like yours for the families of our fallen brothers and sisters whose names will sadly be added to the walls in those locations.

*Second, safe travels!*

I pray that as the seasons of Easter and spring come upon us, you'll be resurrected, refreshed and renewed, just like the dormant grass and plants that are coming back to life around us. What a blessed and hopeful time of year!

Thank you for all you do as a risen people. God bless you and keep you safe!

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