



LOVE / HATE : From Fr. Dan Brandt, CPD Chaplain...

I love my fellow chaplains. I enjoy our time together ministering to the troops, counseling, planning events, conducting and learning through continuing education and scheduling or celebrating wake services/funerals for our police family members and retirees. Sometimes we even get to eat lunch together.

But as rewarding as our limited time together is, I **hate** seeing my fellow chaplains at those times when it becomes *most* necessary.

This past month, that was in several emergency rooms—including Cook County Hospital. (Like “Comiskey Park/U.S. Cellular Field,” Stroger will always be **COUNTY** to me!)

From County, we re-convened for prayers and an honor guard at the back door of the morgue. (Rest in peace, brother Clif, star 4103. May justice be served in your honor and in respect of your brothers and sisters—family of birth and family in blue.)

Since then, we have felt the sting of death in great PO’s and leaders like Commander John Kupczyk from 008. May he, too, rest in peace...and may his soul and the souls of all our brothers and sisters rest in peace.

I digress. At least once a week, we chaplains hit the streets and are at your side in “your world.” This is the highlight of our week. The appointments, the administration, the paperwork, etc. can wait; the streets don’t wait.

While riding in 014 a few weeks ago, Chaplain Bob Montelongo and I stopped at St. Mary Hospital to visit a PO who was in ICU. His small family is spread out around the country, so the only folks checking on him regularly (**VERY** regularly—as in CONSTANTLY) are his colleagues—mostly off duty.

His doctor was leaving the room as Chaplain Montelongo and I entered. The doc said to us, “I’m sorry to see that your friend doesn’t have siblings in the area to look in on him.”

Bob, 15 years on the job, replied, “Doc: with all due respect, I have to correct you. He **doesn’t** have a small family. He has over 10,000 brothers and sisters.”

Let us continue to be with each other in prayer! That said, if the chaplains can ever be of ANY assistance to any of our CPD members, please don't hesitate to call on us: Chaplain Bob Montelongo (773/459-5089), Rabbi Moshe Wolf (773/463-4780), Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis (773/251-5351), Chaplain Joe Jackson (312/771-6684), or me (312/738-7588).

Finally... you are always welcome to pray with us at the **Police Mass** at Mercy Home (1140 W. Jackson Blvd), celebrated the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 11:00 a.m. For the sake of on-duty worshippers, Mass is over in less than a half hour. Coffee and rolls are served after Mass for those who care to stay. While this is a Catholic Mass, ALL are welcome! Bring your family.

God bless you and your most noble work!

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P.S. Ash Wednesday is February 22nd. We'll see you in the areas (mostly at noon) and at a few other spots throughout the day. Watch the daily bulletin or our website (www.chicagopcm.org) for details.