

From Your Chaplain...



In some Christian denominations, November begins with All Saints Day (01 NOV) and All Souls Day (02 NOV). Many Latino cultures celebrate “Dia de los Muertos.” This month, after all the leaves have fallen off the trees and the flowers in our yard are gone, we can’t help but be reminded of our own mortality.

As police officers, you encounter suffering and death far more often than the average person. When it hits our police family directly, we mourn together. Recently I offered prayers at a wake service, after which a police officer thanked me, saying, “I *love* the fact that we have special wake services for CPD members and family.”

I tried to explain to him the difference between the Police Chaplains’ Ministry and the St. Jude League. It is the St. Jude League who is usually “on” for visiting wakes. (I made a special point to offer prayers at *this* particular wake because I would be celebrating the officer’s funeral Mass the next day.) Typically, however, it is a chaplain from the St. Jude League who leads prayer services at CPD wakes.

While St. Jude and the Police Chaplains are completely separate entities, we work very well together. The other four Police Chaplains and I thank the 40 or so St. Jude volunteers for carrying out their mission of assisting grieving families at very difficult times. Death can be ugly, as we all know. But it can also be a beautiful experience and a grace-filled moment as a loved one slips from our hands into God’s.

MASS CARDS: I was recently asked about the procedure for obtaining sympathy/Mass cards from the Chaplains Ministry. It’s actually very simple: via the internet, visit www.ChicagoPCM.org and click on the “Request a Mass Card” link. Or, via telephone, dial 312/738-2831 (24/7), and follow the instructions. For future reference, this number can be found in your FOP book under the “Chaplains” listing. Your card will be mailed to whatever address you provide, and the deceased will be remembered and prayed for at the next Police Mass. There is no fee for Mass cards; however, donations are always gratefully accepted to support our work. (As you know, Police Chaplains Ministry is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, **not** funded by the Department.)

OPERATION SANTA: With the help of some of our own officers who have served in the military, the Chaplains Ministry is again sending Christmas care packages to our brother and sister CPD members currently stationed in Afghanistan.

If you would like to help offset the cost of these top-notch gift boxes, please make a check payable to “Police Chaplains Ministry” and mail it to the address below. You can also use intra-department mail and direct your donation to the Chaplains’ Unit (118). Remember, your donation is fully tax-deductible. THANKS for looking out for our men and women who have changed uniforms—but still carry out such a noble mission!

Thanks to our many volunteers who do the shopping and pack the boxes, and thanks to Phil Cline and the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation for picking up the shipping cost. (The Foundation also sees to it that the children of our deployed officers receive gifts from Santa. Kudos to CPMF for their constant kindness!)

Our **Police Mass** is offered on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 11:00 a.m. at Mercy Home for Boys and Girls: 1140 W. Jackson Boulevard. While this is a Catholic Mass, folks of all denominations are welcome to join us. For the sake of any on-duty worshippers, Mass is usually over by 11:30. Fellowship (including coffee, juice and pastries) follows for those who are able to stick around for a bit.

This month, in addition to our usual Police Masses, we will also celebrate a special **Thanksgiving Day Mass**. Come give thanks to God for the many blessings we often take for granted...and bring your family! You'll be in good company, I promise. **Note that while the usual Mass time is 11:00, on Thanksgiving morning, we'll celebrate Mass at 10:00.**



If the Chaplains Ministry can be of ANY assistance to you in any way, please do not hesitate to call on us 24/7.

Fraternally,

Fr. Dan Brandt, CPD Chaplain

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