

Fr. Dan Brandt's Corner...

Recently the family of one of our officers experienced a violent tragedy. In a most unfortunate turn of events, I once again witnessed the *best* of our Department during the worst of times. Very compassionate officers, detectives and supervisors, along with Peer Support, FOP, and our Unit, worked with a holy synergy to comfort and provide support for one of our own. I was reminded that night of the reason folks on this job often refer to co-workers as their "Police Family." I hope you'll **join me in thanking God for the blessed honor of being a part of such a family.**

A note of thanks to **Sgt. Jerry Negrete and officers of the 010th District** who at a recent police Mass presented a check for \$500 in support of our ministry. Police Chaplains Ministry depends solely on donations (primarily from officers and retirees) to continue our vital work. The men and women of 010—like several other districts—have always been there for us (which allows *us* to always be there for our officers, active and retired)!

Christmas is around the corner... If you'd like a blown glass 3" x 4 ½" **CPD Christmas tree ornament**, please visit our website and click on the "PCM Merchandise" link. A limited supply is available at great prices...and bulk prices are available if you'd like to buy them for your team. One side of the ornament (pictured) reads, "Proud to be the Police," and the other side reads, "Proud to be an American."



This month Police Chaplains Ministry again hosts our beloved **Gold Star Families** at a holiday dinner on the Club Level of Soldier Field, overlooking the police memorial. This is a wonderful evening indeed. Letters were sent out last month to those on our mailing list, soliciting financial support for this evening...and very generous donations have been flowing in. But I also wanted to invite you via this means to consider making a donation. If you wish to do so, your tax-deductible gift (payable to Police Chaplains Ministry) may be made online at our website, sent via CPD mail to Unit 118, or mailed to/dropped off at 1140 W. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago 60607. **Thanks in advance for helping us to remind Gold Star Family members that they and their loved ones are NEVER FORGOTTEN.**

Christmas for Our Troops: Many thanks to P.O./Explosives Tech Dominick Kearns and his dedicated team of volunteers who assembled the Christmas care packages we sent to our troops overseas. And thanks to so many of you who generously supported this great cause! As you read this note, the packages are on their way to their recipients...our brothers and sisters who have switched uniforms, but continue to carry out the mission of protecting our freedom and rights.

Police Mass: Please note: the Police Mass at Mercy Home (1140 W. Jackson Blvd) on Sunday 14 DEC, and Sunday, 28 DEC, is at its normal time of 11:00 a.m. But on Christmas Day, Thursday, 25 DEC, we'll offer Mass at **10:00 a.m.** in order to get you home sooner to open gifts and prepare dinner. While this is a Catholic Mass, ALL are welcome! Bring your family.

The Chaplains' Section (along with the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation) will be hosting an **END-OF-LIFE WORKSHOP** next month. Southsiders can attend on Monday, 12 JAN, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the 022 District community room; the same program will be repeated for Northsiders at the Irish American Heritage Center on Tuesday, 13 JAN, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Come learn how to start the difficult conversation regarding end-of-life decisions. An attorney will also be present to offer *free* estate planning advice. There is no charge for the event. Get more information and exact times by

contacting **Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis** at Kimberly.LewisDavis@ChicagoPolice.org or 312-771-6638. RSVP by 05 JAN.

Finally, mark your calendar for an **evening retreat for first responders**: Tuesday, 13 JAN, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Resurrection Catholic Church...3043 N. Francisco Avenue in Logan Square. Register at www.MayslakeMinistries.org or by calling 630-852-9000. Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis and I will be co-facilitating this evening for YOU involved in first response. Please consider taking a couple hours out of your schedule to enliven your soul.

This time of year can be very stressful. For hints on how to thrive during the holiday season, please see the "Resource and Outreaches" page on our website. *Whatever* holiday you might celebrate, may God be a big part of it—with abundant blessings to you and your family!

Fr. Dan Brandt, CPD Chaplain

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