



## **Fr. Dan Brandt's Corner...**

Last month I had the pleasure of joining **PPO Martin Kudra** and his **FTO, Rob Economos**, for a Sunday evening tour in 009. It was a busy night indeed, with a homicide, domestics, a car accident, and lots of other service calls...in fact, it was so busy that we couldn't even take a lunch. *What's up with that?!?!*

Also this past month, we've celebrated **Blue Masses** at south side and north side parishes. Thanks to our Honor Guard, bagpipers/drummers, and all who attended, making these occasions wonderful opportunities to thank God for our first responders. God bless all who have chosen this most noble profession!

And in last month's FOP magazine, articles spoke of recent unfortunate incidents in which the **US flag** has been mistreated, intentionally displayed incorrectly, and disrespected by "reverends" and rich "professional" athletes claiming to be oppressed. It's easy to dwell on the negativity of these poorly-executed "protests." Well, I'd like to share some positive responses to these players performing on the sidelines rather than playing on the field.

A recent news piece spoke of Mary P. Boyle, Superintendent of Catholic Schools in Camden, NJ, who has mandated that all participants in school-sponsored sporting events show respect to the US flag, the country it stands for, and the men and women who died protecting it. A player's display of disrespect benches them for two games, and a second violation gets them off the team. Of course this rule will be unpopular among some who prefer disrespectful division over peaceful unity...but kudos to Superintendent Boyle for her courageous show of patriotism. Her director of communication states, "Our schools are founded on the teaching of respect and honor...for God, country and duly-appointed authority... The best approach is helping our young people understand that blood was sacrificed so that we all can enjoy the gifts of our faith and our country."



Many FOP members and veterans have sworn off professional football because of the way the NFL has failed to address displays of disrespect by some of their players. And some former fans have taken it a step further. During the hours that they *used to* be glued to their televisions for Monday night, Thursday night or Sunday football, they now do these things and more:

- Volunteer at a VA hospital
- Participate in a Bible study/faith-sharing group
- Clean out closets/attics/basements, donating unneeded items to a disabled veterans' charity
- Walk/exercise/work out at a health club or police fitness facility
- Visit/check on elderly neighbors -- especially veterans
- Attend church services / Mass

Folks who have weighed in are doing something positive with their newfound free time this football season. And unlike those "protesting," these good and humble folks are actually making a difference!

Finally, in addition to our regular second- and fourth-Sunday Masses at Mercy Home, this month we celebrate **Mass on Thanksgiving** morning, 24 NOV . Due to the holiday, Mass time is moved up to 10:00 a.m. Come join in celebrating the beauty of this great nation -- and praying for those who sacrificed so much for it.

God bless America!

*Fr. Dan Brandt, CPD Chaplain*

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