



From Your Chaplain, Fr. Dan Brandt...

The **Brotherhood For the Fallen** is hosting their second annual *Blue Tie Gala* Saturday, 22 SEP, at the Rosemont Hyatt. Last year's event sold out...so get your tickets if they're still available at www.BrotherhoodForTheFallen.org.

A Blue Mass is scheduled for Saturday, 29 SEP, 5:30 p.m. at **St. Ita Parish**, 5500 N. Broadway. While you're welcome to wear your uniform or dress blues, you're also most welcome to dress casually (and bring your family). This is a Catholic Mass, but as always, ALL are welcome.

There will be a **dedication Mass** the same day, 29 SEP, 4:00 p.m. at **St. Florian Parish**, 13145 S. Houston Avenue in Hegewisch. St. Florian is the patron saint of firefighters. At this Mass a new shrine honoring first responders will be dedicated by their pastor.

Planning ahead, two other **Blue Masses** have been added: Wednesday, 10 OCT, 6:00 p.m. at **St. Mary of Perpetual Help Parish**, 1032 W. 32nd Street; and Sunday, 04 NOV, 10:00 a.m. at **St. Thecla Parish**, 6725 W. Devon Avenue.

Have you lost a child? A support group at the **Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii** offers a Saturday retreat for parents who have had to do what NO parent should ever have to do, no matter the age. The next retreat day is scheduled for Saturday, 13 OCT, from 8:30 a.m. through lunch. More information can be found at www.OurLadyOfPompeii.org, or by calling 312-421-3757.

Has your family been affected by suicide? A police family resource group has been formed recently to provide support to you and your family! It's called **STAR...Suicide Trauma and Recovery**. The group meets monthly on the southwest side. If you're interested in joining, please contact Chaplain Bob Montelongo at 773-459-5089 or Robert.Montelongo@ChicagoPolice.org.

Elections are approaching, so I'd like to make sure you know about one of our own members, **Sgt. Ammie Kessem**, who is running for State Representative of the 19th Legislative District. Her no-nonsense philosophy and common-sense beliefs include lower income/property taxes and a plan for safer neighborhoods.

Ammie, who has been on the job since 1999, remains a member of Lodge 7. She would be grateful for your vote. Learn more at www.AmmieFor19.com.

Finally, in light of recent comments by the pope, I've been asked by a few department members for clarification on the **Church's teaching on capital punishment**. Paragraph 2266 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church reads:

Preserving the common good of society requires rendering the aggressor unable to inflict harm. For this reason the traditional teaching of the Church has acknowledged as well-founded the right and duty of legitimate public authority to punish malefactors by means of penalties commensurate with the gravity of the crime, not excluding, in cases of extreme gravity, the death penalty. For analogous reasons those holding authority have the right to repel by armed force aggressors against the community in their charge.

The pope's comments seem to center on the following paragraph, which is nothing new, just re-visited. Paragraph 2267 of the same Catechism reads:

If bloodless means are sufficient to defend human lives against an aggressor and to protect public order and the safety of persons, public authority should limit itself to such means, because they better correspond to the concrete conditions of the common good and are more in conformity to the dignity of the human person.

These teachings apply **not** to those in the law enforcement field who sometimes have no choice but to use deadly means in protecting self and others. Rather, this directive applies to the treatment of malefactors already incarcerated.

I hope this clarification helps. If I can ever be a resource in matters of faith, please don't hesitate to call or email. I'll be the first to admit that some Church leaders (in many denominations) have let us down in recent months. Still, this human-run institution tries to spread the message of God's love for ALL people...something our officers swear to do on a daily basis.

God bless you and keep you safe in doing *exactly* that!

Fr. Dan Brandt, *Directing CPD Chaplain*

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