



From Your Directing Chaplain, Fr. Dan Brandt...



I recently read an article in the Chicago Sun-Times, where a retiree was quoted: "If you want to be loved, be a firefighter...not a cop." This broke my heart. While some loudmouths are spewing hatred for your most worthy profession, I wish to remind you that you have chosen the most noble, God-ordained vocation this world knows. Truly, you are doing (or have done) God's work. Please never lose sight of this simple truth.

I write this article on a Sunday evening after having celebrated three parish Masses and the police Mass. [\(By the way...as a reminder, the police Mass is celebrated at 11:00 a.m. every 2nd and 4th Sunday at Mercy Home, 1140 W. Jackson Boulevard...no matter your faith tradition, you are most welcome!\)](#) The gospel message we heard at Masses this weekend is a very familiar one: the multiplication of loaves and fish, where Jesus fed 5,000 with just a few morsels. It is a story that reminds us to be grateful for the small gifts we have in life. During these difficult days, as tough as it can be to be grateful, I encourage you to count your blessings (family, friends, health, a decent salary or pension, job security, benefits, etc.) I pray that your blessings far outweigh your burdens!

While giving thanks...I'd like to thank the Father Perez Council of the Knights of Columbus who teamed up with the Our Lady of Fatima Council every Saturday last month to pray the Rosary outside various police stations for the safety and well-being of our heroes in blue. These days more than ever, our troops need all the prayerful support they can get!

On Thursday, 09 SEP, we will honor the 599 CPD officers who have lost their lives in service to the people of the City of Chicago. Feel free to join us **IN PERSON** at sundown for our annual candlelight vigil. It will take place at Gold Star Families Memorial and Park, just east of Soldier Field.

Next month we also mark the 20th anniversary of the attacks of 9/11 on American soil. Please be sure to remember that day the sacrifice of 23 NYPD officers and 37 Port Authority Police Officers...plus the 343 members of the New York fire service

who died that day. Since then, hundreds have died from complications caused by their service that fateful day. May they all rest in peace.

Our next [Upper Room Club](#) gathering (featuring prayer, Bible study and faith sharing among like-minded law enforcement friends) will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 21 SEP, at the Newark Nook (6443 N. Newark Ave.). No matter your faith tradition, you are most welcome to join us!

On Saturday, 25 SEP, the Brotherhood for the Fallen will host their annual “Blue Tie Gala” in Rosemont. I have emceed this event for many years and have the honor of doing so again this year. Please join us! Details can be found on our [home page](#).

On Wednesday, 29 SEP at 7:30 p.m., I will celebrate a Blue Mass at St. John Cantius Parish (825 N. Carpenter). All are welcome to come pray with and for our officers on the feast day of our patron saint, Michael the Archangel.

Attention married couples: Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis is putting together a police marriage weekend retreat at a beautiful resort in Itasca. It'll be held the second weekend in October. Mark your calendar to come strengthen your marriage with a dozen or so other couples! To reserve your spot, please email Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis at Kimberly.LewisDavis@ChicagoPolice.org.

God bless you as you continue to do God's work. Please stay safe and healthy! Know that active or retired, you're in our daily prayers.

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