

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



On 04 DEC, I had the chance to visit Santa Claus (aka retired PO Darrin Bourret) to ensure I was on his "Nice" list. Even better than seeing Santa was visiting with PO Carlos Yanez Jr. as he **walked** around the FOP hall greeting the crowds. God is good!



Thank you to St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish on the southwest side! They graciously hosted a Blue Mass on Sunday, 04 DEC. There, we prayed with and for our beloved CPD members. Here you'll see Fr. Miguel Andrade and Alderman Silvana Tabares flanked by members of the Mounted Unit and 008<sup>th</sup> district officers Jose Sepulveda and Sarai Trevino.

Another Blue Mass is scheduled for Sunday, 19 FEB, at 8:00 a.m. at St. John Fisher Parish (103<sup>rd</sup> Street). All are welcome to pray with and for our officers. This Mass coincides with a Chicago Police Memorial Foundation "Get Behind the Vest" fundraiser pancake breakfast hosted by Alderman Matt O'Shea and St. John Fisher Parish.

On February 13 we mark the five-year anniversary of **Commander Paul Bauer's** murder. As I stated at his funeral Mass (and since), Paul's life wasn't "given," as so many outlets stated. It was TAKEN. It was STOLEN from his family and us by a four-time convicted felon who should have NEVER been on the street.

The name of Paul's murderer has already been forgotten...and this coward will spend the rest of his miserable life in prison with no chance for parole. But Paul Bauer's name and legacy, along with his wife Erin and daughter Grace, will ALWAYS be remembered.



Memorial cards from Paul's funeral (and many of our LOD funerals) are available for download from our website ([ChicagoPCM.org](http://ChicagoPCM.org)). If you'd like one mailed to you, just let me know...my contact info is below.

**Ash Wednesday** is 22 FEB. In keeping with time-honored tradition, CPD Chaplains will distribute blessed ashes at various locations throughout the city. The schedule will be posted on The CPD Wire and our website.

I recently received a note from the family of retired member John McKenna Jr. In the note was a photocopy of the prayer that John carried in his vest pocket throughout his police career. It's such a moving prayer—and so fitting for a police officer to pray—that I thought I'd share it here:

*In every need, let me come to You with humble trust, saying, "Jesus, help me!"*

*In all my doubts, perplexities, and temptations: Jesus, help me!*

*In hours of loneliness, weariness and trials: Jesus, help me!*

*In the failure of my plans and hopes, in disappointments, troubles and sorrows:  
Jesus, help me!*

*When others fail me, and Your Grace alone can assist me: Jesus, help me!*

*When I throw myself on Your tender love as Savior: Jesus, help me!*

*When my heart is cast down by failure, at seeing no good come from my efforts:  
Jesus, help me!*

*When I feel impatient, and my cross irritates me: Jesus, help me!*

*When I am ill, and my head and hands cannot work: Jesus, help me!*

*Always, always, in spite of weakness, falls and shortcomings of every kind: Jesus,  
help me!*

Thanks to the McKenna Family for sharing that beautiful prayer! May John rest in peace.

As you well know, we as a blue family have had a horrible couple of months. At wakes/funerals last month, I begged officers to take advantage of the resources available. In the past few years, our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) tripled, then quadrupled, and now QUINTUPLED the number of clinicians available to our members. These professional counselors provide confidential assistance and are available 24/7 at 312-743-0378.

If the CPD Chaplains can ever be of ANY assistance/support to CPD members, retirees or families, please don't hesitate to call on us: Chaplain Bob Montelongo (773/459-5089), Chaplain Joe Jackson (312/771-6684), Chaplain Hysni Selenica (312/771-6692), Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis (312/771-6638), Rabbi Moshe Wolf (773/463-4780), or me (773/550-2369). All of these numbers (also listed in your FOP directory under "Chaplains") are cell phones and receive text messages. You can also email us through the chaplains' website. As with EAP, you can be assured of our non-judgmental confidentiality.

Attention married couples: Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis is putting together a police marriage weekend retreat. It'll be held the weekend before Valentine's Day. Mark your calendar to come strengthen your marriage with a dozen or so other couples! Enrollment is limited, and attendee costs are offset by Police Chaplains Ministry, CPD, and the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation. To reserve your spot, please email Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis at [Kimberly.LewisDavis@ChicagoPolice.org](mailto:Kimberly.LewisDavis@ChicagoPolice.org).

Keep up with all of the above and LOTS more on our FaceBook page or website ([www.ChicagoPCM.org](http://www.ChicagoPCM.org)).

May God bless you and keep you safe and healthy in the new year! Thank you for doing God's work.

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