



“Lessons from My Teacher”

December 2024

As this goes to print the Chicago police family mourns the tragic loss of one of our own, PO Enrique Martinez who was murdered in the line of duty. Our heartfelt and sincere sympathy, condolences and prayers go out to all members and loved ones of the Martinez family. Officer Enrique Martinez was loved and respected by all who knew him. He was a true gentleman and friend to all those around him. He will be dearly missed and always have a place in our hearts. "Gone but never forgotten". On behalf of all your chaplains, a heartfelt thank you to each of you that showed up to the scene, to the hospital, the morgue and the funeral. A special thanks to all the members of the Chicago Fire Department and outside Police departments and law enforcement agencies who came from near and far to show their support and offer their condolences.

Reminding us that one very important lesson in life, that there are moments that it is not what you say, but your mere presence that gives support and comfort to the family and those mourning. We appreciate each of you, and thank you for being there.

It is at those moments that we are reminded of how precious every day of life is, and how quick things can change. It reminded me of the story, " Lessons from my Teacher "

I had a very special teacher in high school many years ago whose husband died suddenly of a heart attack. About a week after his death, she shared some of her insight with a classroom of students.

As the late afternoon sunlight came streaming in through the classroom windows and the class was nearly over, she moved a few things aside on the edge of her desk and sat down there. With a gentle look of reflection on her face, she paused and said, "Class is over, I would like to share with all of you, a thought that is unrelated to class, but which I feel is very important.

Each of us is put here on earth to learn, share, love, appreciate and give of ourselves. None of us knows when this fantastic experience will end.

It can be taken away at any moment. Perhaps this is the powers way of

telling us that we must make the most out of every single day."

Her eyes, beginning to water, she went on, "So I would like you all to make me a promise. From now on, on your way to school, or on your way home, find something beautiful to notice. It doesn't have to be something you see; it could be a scent - perhaps of freshly baked bread wafting out of someone's house, or it could be the sound of the breeze slightly rustling the leaves in the trees, or the way the morning light catches one autumn leaf as it falls gently to the ground. Please look for these things, and cherish them. For, although it may sound trite to some, these things are the "stuff" of life. The little things we are put here on earth to enjoy. The things we often take for granted. We must make it important to notice them, for at anytime...it can all be taken away."

The class was completely quiet. We all picked up our books and filed out of the room silently.

That afternoon, I noticed more things on my way home from school than I had that whole semester.

Every once in a while, I think of that teacher and remember what an impression she made on all of us, and I try to appreciate all of those things that sometimes we all overlook.

Take notice of something special you see on your lunch hour today. Go barefoot. Or walk on the beach at sunset. Stop off on the way home tonight, to get a double dip ice cream cone. Tell your family and friends how much they mean to you. For as we get older, it is not the

things we did that we often regret, but the things we didn't do.

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the

moments that take our breath away.

Some end of the year thoughts,,,,,,,,,

As we say goodbye to 2024, and enter a New Year 2025 we pause, to thank G-d for the year gone by. There were many trials and tribulations, as well as many blessings, the bottom line is we made it. So, we pray that the coming year brings with it the best of blessings to all of us for a healthy prosperous year. We also pray for a bit extra strength and faith during those trying times. It brings to mind a memo that helps keep things in perspective. "A Memo from The Boss":

Today I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help.

If life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFGTD (something for G-d to do) box. It will be addressed in My time, not yours. Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold on to it.

If you find yourself struck in traffic; don't despair. There are people in this world for whom driving is an unheard-of privilege.

Should you have a bad day at work: think of the man who has been out of work for years.

Should you despair over a relationship gone bad; think of the person who has never known what it's like to love and be loved in return.

Should you grieve the passing of another weekend; think of the person in dire straits, working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to feed their children.

Should your car break down, leaving you miles away from assistance: think of the paraplegic who would love the opportunity to take that walk.

Should you notice a new gray hair in the mirror; think of the cancer patient in chemo who wishes she had hair to examine.

Should you find yourself at a loss and pondering what is life all about, asking what is my purpose? Be thankful. There are those who didn't live long enough to get the opportunity.

Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities; Remember, things could be worse. You could be them! As the saying goes on the street "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade". And please remember I am ALWAYS available for you 24/7. All you need is prayer, my door is ALWAYS open, your loving Father. Amen!

Before we close A little humor from the "Moshe Files" to keep you smiling...

"Grandpa's Patience"

A woman is following a grandfather and his badly-behaved grandson at the supermarket. He has his hands full with the child screaming for sweets, biscuits – all sorts of things. The grandad is saying in a controlled voice, “Easy, William, we won’t be long ... easy boy.”

Another outburst and she hears the grandad calmly say, “It’s okay, William. Just a couple more minutes and we’ll be out of here. Hang in there, boy.”

At the checkout, the little horror is throwing items out of the trolley. The grandad says again in a controlled voice, “William, William, relax buddy, don’t get upset. We’ll be home in five minutes, you’ll have a sandwich and a drink, stay cool William.”

Very impressed, she goes outside to where the grandfather is loading his groceries and the boy into the car. She says, “It’s none of my business, but you were amazing in there. I don’t know how you did it. That whole time you kept your composure, and no matter how loud and disruptive he got, you just calmly kept saying things would be okay. William is very lucky to have you as his grandad.”

“Thanks,” says the grandpa. “But I am William. The little rascal’s name is Kevin” Lol.....Lol.....

On Behalf of ALL your Chaplains, Season's Greetings, Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year. May 2025 be one of your best ones yet! May G-d bless you and keep you safe. Should you need an ear to listen or a shoulder to lean on

or perhaps have some good humor to share, please do not hesitate to give us a call. We are available 24/7. All our contact information available in your FOP books or on our website: WWW.chicagopcm.org

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

Rabbi Moshe Wolf, 773-463-4780 or e-mail: moshewolf@hotmail.com

Snail mail: 3008 W. Pratt Blvd., 60645