

From Your Chaplain, Fr. Dan Brandt...



A few weeks ago, I was at Christ Hospital with a P.O. who was shot in the leg while on duty. Dozens of co-workers and many of the bosses—all the way up to superintendent—were there, and I had the honor of praying with them and—most importantly—with the officer and his family.

Prior to that, I found myself at a home on the south side, where a police officer was murdered by a family member. Again, I saw a tremendous outpouring of support from brothers and sisters in blue (and white). This support system is indeed a blessing and something that we as a family sometimes take for granted.

I have witnessed this gift countless other times in recent weeks: at wakes, benefits, and in numerous non-life-threatening hospital visits. As my beloved predecessor, Fr. Tom Nangle, has said to me more than a few times: "Dan, THIS is where the rubber hits the road!"

I must admit, however, that I look *much* more forward to meeting our personnel on the street as I make the rounds to different districts, and at **social** functions where we can make each other's acquaintance in a more relaxed environment...and maybe even enjoy a meal together!

Christmas for Our Troops: Many thanks to P.O./Explosives Tech Dominick Kearns and his dedicated team who assembled the Christmas care packages we sent to our troops overseas. And thanks to so many of you who generously supported this great cause! As you read this note, the packages are on their way to their recipients.

Good news... The number of our officers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan has dropped by over 50% since last year. I can't wait until ALL of our men and women are home with their families and us...for good!

Police Mass: Please note: the Police Mass at Mercy Home (1140 W. Jackson Blvd) on Sunday 11 DEC is at its normal time of 11:00 a.m. But on Christmas Day, Sunday 25 DEC, we'll offer Mass at **10:00 a.m.** in order to get you home sooner to open gifts and prepare dinner. While this is a Catholic Mass, ALL are welcome! Bring your family.

If the Chaplains' Office can ever be of ANY assistance to any of our CPD members, please don't hesitate to call on Chaplain Bob Montelongo, Rabbi Moshe Wolf, or me. We are all listed in your FOP book, and we are available around the clock.

May God bless you and your family as we approach this most special time of the year.

Fraternally,

Fr. Dan Brandt, Chaplain

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