

## From Your Chaplain...



From Emerald Society to Captains' Association, Knights of Columbus to Memorial Foundation, and Credit Union to Sergeants' Association events, I have had the chance to meet many, many new and friendly faces these past few months in my new position. (Having helped Fr. Nangle with the Chaplains Ministry for the past eight years, some faces are not so new, but just as welcoming in my new full-time position!) Even more rewarding, however, is meeting our men and women while riding in districts or visiting in hospitals or at wakes. *Thanks* for your warm welcome these past few months!

Recently I offered prayers at a wake service, after which a police officer thanked me, saying, "I love the fact that we have special wake services for CPD members and family."

I tried to explain to him the difference between the Police Chaplains' Ministry and the St. Jude League. It is the St. Jude League who is usually "on" for visiting wakes. (I made a special point to visit *this* wake was because I happened to be celebrating the officer's funeral Mass the next day.) Ideally, it is a chaplain from the St. Jude League who leads prayer services at CPD wakes.

While St. Jude and the Police Chaplains are completely separate entities, we work well together. I thank the 40 or so St. Jude volunteers for carrying out their mission of assisting grieving families at very difficult times.

**MASS CARDS:** I was recently asked about the procedure for obtaining sympathy/Mass cards from the Chaplains Ministry. It's actually very simple: call 312/738-2831 (24/7), and follow the instructions. For future reference, this number can be found in your FOP book under the "Chaplains" listing. Your card will be mailed to whatever address you provide, and the deceased will be remembered and prayed for at the next Police Mass. There is no fee for Mass cards, though of course donations are always gratefully accepted to support our work. (As you know, we are a 501(c)3 charitable organization, not funded by the Department.)

**OPERATION SANTA:** With the help of some of our own officers who have served in the military, the Chaplains Ministry is again sending Christmas care packages to the four dozen or so CPD members currently stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

If you would like to help offset the cost of these top-notch gift boxes, please make a check payable to "Police Chaplains Ministry" and mail it to the address below. You can use intra-department mail and direct your donation to the Chaplains' Unit (118). THANKS for looking out for our men and women who have changed uniforms, but still carry out such a noble mission!

Thanks to our many volunteers who do the shopping and pack the boxes, and thanks to the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation for picking up the shipping cost. (The Foundation also sees to it that the children of our deployed officers receive gifts from Santa. Kudos to them for their constant kindness!)

Our **Police Mass** is offered on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month at 11:00 a.m. at Mercy Home for Boys and Girls: 1140 W. Jackson Boulevard. While this is a Catholic Mass, folks of all denominations are welcome to join us. Mass is usually over by 11:30, and fellowship (including coffee, juice and pastries) follows for those who can stick around for a bit.

This month, in addition to our usual Police Masses, we will also celebrate a special **Thanksgiving Day Mass** at **10:00** a.m. Come give thanks to God for the many blessings we often take for granted...and bring your family! You'll be in good company, I promise. Note that while the usual Mass time is 11:00, on Thanksgiving morning, we'll celebrate Mass at 10:00.

If the Chaplains Ministry can be of ANY assistance to you in any way, please do not hesitate to call on us 24/7.

Fraternally,

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