



Rabbi Moshe Wolf

A Reason, A Season, A Lifetime

As this goes to print our department bids a farewell to Fr. Thomas Nangle, who is retiring after 41 years of dedicated service to the men and women of the Chicago Police Department. I dedicate this month's article as a small tribute to Fr. Tom.

How one does express proper thanks, when there is so much to be thankful for. It brings to mind the parable of the girl who is about to leave home to get married after graduating medical school. Before the final move she sits down with her parents and says "where do I begin? What proper words can I use, to express my gratitude to you for bringing me into this world and for all that you have done for me"? You have cared for me as an infant, you put up with my tantrums as a child. You gave me unconditional love as a teenager even though at times I was rebellious. You spent your hard earned money to send me to medical school and i couldn't have done it without all your encouragement and faith in me. Now I leave the nest, to start a family of my own. I don't have words that can express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation, so I will say it the best way I can. Thank you, thank you.

Father Nangle, as Chaplain to the Department and as a friend to all who know him, has always been there for his flock ALL the time. We shared with Fr. many laughs at roll calls and on the streets. We have stood together at HBT situations and watched the sweat roll down his face as he prayed for a peaceful outcome. And we have shed many tears together in the halls of the hospitals and ME's office when we lost one of our own. Somehow regardless of the situation Fr. always had the right words to bring comfort and a smile. While there are no words that can properly express our gratitude and appreciation, on behalf of ALL the men and women of your flock we say "Thank you, Thank you!"

The following poem expresses the sentiment of the moment: "People come into our lives for a Reason a Season or a Lifetime".

When we know which one it is,

we will know what to do for that person.
When someone is in our lives for a REASON,
it is usually to meet a need we have expressed.

They have come to assist us through a difficulty,
to provide us with guidance and support,
to aid us physically, emotionally or spiritually.
They may seem like a godsend and they are.

They are there for the reason we need them to be.
Then,
without any wrongdoing on our part
or at an inconvenient time,
this person will say or do something
to bring the relationship to an end.
Sometimes they die. Sometimes they walk away.
Sometimes they act up and force us to take a stand.
What we must realize, is that our need has been met,
our desire fulfilled, their work is done.
The prayer we sent up has been answered
and now it is time to move on.

Some people come into our lives for a SEASON,
because our turn has come to share, grow or learn.
They bring us an experience of peace or make us laugh.
They may teach us something we have never done.
They usually give us an unbelievable amount of joy.
Believe it, it is real.
But only for a season.

LIFETIME relationships teach us lifetime lessons,
things we must build upon in order
to have a solid emotional foundation.
Our job is to accept the lesson,
love the person
and put what we have learned to use
in all other relationships and areas of your life.
It is said that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant.

Thank you for being a part of our lives,
You have touched us all spiritually and emotionally
Whether at the time you were a Reason, a Season or a Lifetime.

Fr. Nangle, on behalf of all the men and woman of your flock, thank you for

giving so much of yourself and making our lives richer .

We leave you with blessings of our tradition:

May G-d bless you and keep you, May G-d shine his countenance upon you and be gracious to you,

May G-d bless you with peace, joy, happiness and good health all your days. AMEN!

Let's give a warm welcome to Fr. Dan Brandt, A true gentleman who is assuming the role of Director of the Chaplains Unit. We wish him much success in his new endeavor.

Wishing you all a healthy safe summer. Remember to take some with your loved ones, to enjoy the beauties of nature.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

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