

From Your Chaplain, Fr. Dan Brandt...



Last month, thanks to one of Chicago's radio stations playing holiday music 24/7 (starting what feels like last *June*), I had a familiar favorite streaming through my mind: "It's the most wonderful time of the year." This old Andy Williams melody can stay with a person all day.

That is, until one gets a text message reading, "I HATE CHRISTMAS!"

This Scrooge-like declaration came out-of-the-blue from a friend who, upon inquiry, informed me, "CUZ IT RMINDS ME HOW MUCH IT SUX 2 LIVE PAYCHECK 2 PAYCHECK."

Wow! I guess Andy Williams wasn't living paycheck to paycheck when he recorded his song in 1963. And, I must admit, I don't either. I would venture a guess that most who are reading these words right now are not, either...while indeed hard workers, most of us have a least a bit more than the basics to make life work.

This past holiday season served once again as a time to share, a time to reflect, a time to give thanks for the abundant gifts God showers upon us. We work hard for what we have, and the ability to work is in itself a gift. I encourage you to carry this practice of giving thanks well into the new year.

To that end, I'd like to say **THANKS** to all who so generously supported our "Care Packages for the Troops" project. Good news: as far as CPD troops serving in combat zones, we are down to *ten*! I can't wait until that number dwindles to **zero** and all are home with us, their family in blue—and more importantly, with their own families!

Thanks, too, to the many volunteers who gave an evening at the FOP hall last month to stuff these care packages...AND to the FOP for not only hosting us, but even providing pizza!

Thanks to the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation and all who support it for providing gifts to our Gold Star Families and to the children of deployed military personnel.

Thanks, also, to the Knights of Columbus (St. Michael the Archangel Police Council) for providing holiday gifts, cheer and a visit from Santa to the profoundly physically- and developmentally-challenged children of Blair School on the southwest side. The KC's, like so many of our other CPD fraternal organizations, make me incredibly proud to be a member of this family.

Police Mass: The Police Mass at Mercy Home (1140 W. Jackson Blvd) is celebrated the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 11:00 a.m. For the sake of on-duty worshippers, Mass is over in less than a half hour. Coffee and rolls are served after Mass for those who care to stay. While this is a Catholic Mass, ALL are welcome! Bring your family.

If the chaplains can ever be of ANY assistance to any of our CPD members, please don't hesitate to call on us: Chaplain Bob Montelongo (773/459-5089), Rabbi Moshe Wolf (773/463-4780), Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis (773/251-5351), Chaplain Joe Jackson (312/771-6684), or me (312/738-7588).

May *all* seasons of 2012 be the “Most wonderful time of the year” for you and your family.

God bless you,

Fr. Dan Brandt, Chaplain

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