



## **From Your Chaplain, Fr. Dan Brandt...**

The month before last, a dick from Area North was able to identify a Jane Doe who was found floating in Lake Michigan. Through some excellent detective work, the 33-year-old mentally-ill victim was identified. Her out-of-state family was notified, and they arranged to have the young woman's cremated remains sent to them.

Our detective asked me to bless the remains before her final journey home. This was a first for me, and I was honored to participate in a simple prayer service, which brought some solace to her family and closure to the dicks on the job. The compassion of the CPD members involved was inspiring. This was a privileged moment indeed...and the presence of God was certainly felt!

Whether you recognize it or not, God is present in **your** day-to-day encounters—especially among the least of God's children. These are the people spoken of in the Scriptures...those whom we are called to serve and protect. Keep this in mind, please, while exercising your God-ordained duty on the streets. While my fellow chaplains and I see you out there from time to time, please also know that you are constantly in our prayers.

Following up on the Police Suicide Awareness and Prevention Seminar we hosted in January, the Department has decided to bring back Police Chief Kent Williams from Bartlett, Illinois, to repeat his presentation to our exempt staff next month at headquarters. While bosses will make up most of the audience, we can probably (hopefully!) squeeze in a few other guests...so if you have the desire to participate, please let me know. This is a timely topic to address that needs to be taken VERY seriously, especially in light of the sad fact that nationwide, more than twice as many PO's take their own lives as are killed by aggressors.

A benefit will be held on Friday, 26 APR, at Bourbon Street for Casa Catalina—a Catholic Charities-sponsored food pantry and social service center located at 45<sup>th</sup> and Ashland (in 009). Retired PO Al Bedia is involved in raising funds and awareness for this very worthwhile cause. For tickets, sponsorship opportunities, and more information, please contact Al at 773/617-8207.

Finally, please note that while the usual time for our second- and fourth-Sunday police Mass at Mercy Home is 11:00 a.m., on Mothers' Day (12 MAY), it will be held at 10:00 a.m. This is our usual practice on holidays, so folks can prepare their homes and meals.

God bless you in your most noble work,

*Fr. Dan Brandt*, CPD Chaplain

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