

From Your Chaplain, Fr. Dan Brandt...



Christmas is around the corner! If you'd like a 3" x 4 1/2" **CPD Christmas tree ornament**, please visit our website (below), and click on the "PCM Merchandise" link. A limited supply is available at great prices...and bulk prices are available if you'd like to buy them for your team.

On December 5th, we again hosted our **Gold Star Families** for dinner on the club level of Soldier Field, overlooking the Police Memorial to the east and the football field to the west. It was a wonderful evening, made possible through YOUR support of Police Chaplains Ministry. Thank you! If you are not yet a supporter of Police Chaplains Ministry but would like to become one, please call us or visit our website to join our mailing list.

The **Enforcers Football Team** and the Chaplains Unit are again co-sponsoring a **toy drive** on Sunday, 15 DEC, 12:00-4:00pm at Lion's Head Pub – 2251 N. Lincoln Avenue in Lincoln Park. Bring a new, unwrapped toy and watch the Bears beat the Browns. More info may be found on our website.

Christmas for Our Troops: Many thanks to P.O./Explosives Tech Dominick Kearns and his dedicated team of volunteers 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...our brothers and sisters who have switched uniforms, but continue to carry out the mission of protecting freedom and rights.

Help make the holiday season a little brighter for the hungry and those in need. Please support the Chicago Police Department's efforts in a **holiday food drive** benefitting the Greater Chicagoland Food Depository. Suggested donations include non-perishable food items and toiletries. Drop off locations include all districts, the Public Safety Building and the Education and Training Division. The last day of the food drive is 19 DEC.

Mercy Home for Boys and Girls provides the Chaplains Ministry with office space at no charge and even allows us to use their chapel on Jackson Boulevard for our twice-monthly Police Mass. They are incredibly hospitable to our ministry to the police. Now I have an opportunity to return their kindness... They are in search of a PO who would like an apartment in their southeast side complex (69th and Ridgeland) for adults and families. See our website for more info. This is NOT a resident-assistance role; you would simply enjoy your privacy, living in an apartment on premise, with greatly-discounted rent in return...a win-win situation! **If you're looking for an apartment, please consider this opportunity.**

Police Mass: Please note: the Police Mass at Mercy Home (1140 W. Jackson Blvd) on Sunday 08 DEC, and Sunday, 22 DEC, is at its normal time of 11:00 a.m. But on Christmas Day, Wednesday, 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.

Finally, mark your calendar for an **evening retreat for first responders:** 29 JAN at Mayslake Ministries...450 E. 22nd Street, Lombard. Register at www.MayslakeMinistries.org or by calling 630-268-9000. Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis and I will be co-facilitating this evening for YOU involved in first response. Please consider taking two hours out of your schedule to enliven your soul.

This time of year can be very stressful. For hints on how to thrive during the holiday season, please see the “Resource and Outreaches” page on our website. *Whatever* holiday you might celebrate, may God be a big part of it—with abundant blessings to you and your family!

Fraternally,

Fr. Dan Brandt, CPD Chaplain

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