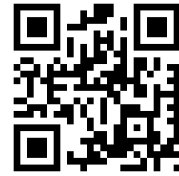




From Your Chaplain, Fr. Dan Brandt...



Allow me to share parts of some **letters I recently received from our brothers serving in Afghanistan...** "I want to thank you for your extreme generosity. I was very touched to receive such a wonderful care package from the Chaplains Ministry, and I was able to pass along some of the items to my fellow service members here. They were amazed by the generosity and kindness shown to us from home..." (This note came from a CPD patrolman named Evan T. who is serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.)

A similar note came from Gary H., a CPD member who is serving in an anti-IED (Improvised Explosive Device) unit: "I thank you and all the people who helped put together the care package I just received. My fellow reservists/Chicago Police Officers are grateful that you support us and do not forget about us...Freedom isn't free, and I want you to know how thankful I am for your constant support during my deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. You all continue to inspire me and remind me why I have served in the US military for 27 years!"

Finally, the other night on the street in 007, a PO stopped me after a job and shook my hand, saying a simple but heartfelt "Thank you" for the care package he received last year while serving overseas.

These sentiments are in response, of course, to the top-quality care packages we send every December to our CPD brothers and sisters serving in Afghanistan and previously in Iraq. Our endeavor was again a total success this year...thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the hard work of many dedicated volunteers who stuffed those huge boxes with premium items from Chicago. Even better news on that front: our officers serving in the military overseas have been steadily returning home! Like you, I can't wait until **all** are home with their families, and back to work with their CPD family. In the meantime, we gratefully go out of our way to make sure they know they are loved, prayed for and appreciated.

Thanks to all who attended our evening **retreat for first responders** last month. It was a wonderful chance to grow closer to the God whose most vulnerable people we serve in our day-to-day work. We'll keep you posted on similar future opportunities.

On Thursday, 20 FEB, the **CPD Survivors' Group will host a resource night** at the FOP hall from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m. Come see what various programs, resources, outreaches and beneficial information is available to you through the police department and other agencies. Admission is free, and there will be free food, drink, raffles and door prizes. More information can be found on our website's home page.

A reminder to those who attend the twice-monthly Police Mass: on **Sunday, 23 FEB, the Mass is going to be celebrated at 10:00 a.m.** due to a scheduling conflict at Mercy Home. Other Police Masses remain as scheduled at 11:00 a.m.

Finally, **Ash Wednesday is March 5th**. In time-honored tradition, chaplains will distribute blessed ashes at various police facilities throughout the city. Closer to Ash Wednesday, the schedule will be posted in the daily bulletin and on our website (below).

God bless you and those you love (and even those of whom you're not too fond!).

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