

Fr. Dan Brandt's Corner...

On New Year's Day, at the prompting of officers who were unable to travel to New York to join grieving brothers and sisters, we hosted a **prayer service at Gold Star Families Memorial and Park**. Several hundred officers and family members attended and were reminded that—despite some current anti-police sentiments that exist—**YOU ARE DOING GOD'S WORK**. In fact, some of the neighborhoods you patrol feature little churches on every block. Yet, ironically, you remain the only presence of God some of the good folks living in these areas see each day. Pictures and some very favorable media coverage of the service are available on our website's "Photo Album" page.



Recently while on Wednesday night rounds in the districts, a PO in 010 stopped me after a job and shook my hand, saying a simple but heartfelt "Thank you" for the care package he received while serving overseas. His gratitude was in response 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. Even *better* news on that front: our officers serving in the military overseas have been steadily returning home! We are down to four CPD officers who are currently forward-deployed. (This number was almost 50 a few years ago.) 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 remembered, prayed for and appreciated.

On **Tuesday, 17 FEB at 6:00 p.m.**, I'll be celebrating the monthly (every 3rd Tuesday) **police/fire Mass** at Most Holy Redeemer Parish on 95th Street in Evergreen Park. All are welcome!

Ash Wednesday is 18 FEB. In time-honored tradition, department 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.

On Thursday, 19 FEB, 6:00 – 11:00 p.m., the **CPD Survivors** will host their second annual "Phoenix Rising" event at the FOP Hall. Come support the Survivors, who continue to help officers involved in critical incidents. Food, beverages, live music, and fun for all. For more information, please visit their website: www.ChicagoPoliceSurvivors.com.

Finally, we still have room at an open discussion on topics that affect all in law enforcement. Come share your thoughts/ideas/experiences with **like-minded folks** on Friday, 27 FEB, 6:30-9:00 p.m., at Maple Park Methodist Church (117th and Elizabeth). This is a particularly timely evening, considering the current perception of police by some. Register at www.MayslakeMinistries.org or by calling 630-852-9000. Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis and I will be co-facilitating this evening for our officers. Please consider taking a couple hours out of your busy schedule to refresh your soul and remind yourself that **YOU ARE DOING GOD'S WORK!**

Keep safe and warm!

Fr. Dan Brandt, CPD Chaplain

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