

Fr. Dan Brandt's Corner...

HAPPY, HEALTHY, HOLY NEW YEAR! If your New Year resolution is to get some regular "Churchin' up," then please know you're most welcome at the **Police Mass every 2nd and 4th Sunday**, 11:00 a.m. at Mercy Home (1140 W. Jackson Blvd). While this is a Catholic Mass, ALL CPD families are welcome! On-duty members, you'll be out in less than 30 minutes.

This past month, the other chaplains and I were especially busy not only with the daily duties of ministering to our flock following crises and looking out for our active and retired officers and their family members in hospitals, emergency rooms, nursing homes, and at wakes and funerals...we have also had the *enjoyable* opportunity to visit various district/unit holiday/retirement celebrations and other happy occasions.

Here, **PO Gino Pacetti** (009) and I take a "Photo Op" at one such recent social event. We in the Chaplains Section cherish these opportunities to be with our police family during these positive moments.



Another happy occasion was our annual **Gold Star Families holiday dinner** on the Club Level of Soldier Field (overlooking the Police Memorial). Hundreds of our beloved who lost family members in the line of duty had a wonderful evening together. They were greeted by members of the Mounted Unit and escorted upstairs by officers in their dress blues. This elegant evening is made possible by the thousands of good people who support the mission of Police Chaplains Ministry. Together, we make sure that our Gold Star Families know that their loved ones are NEVER FORGOTTEN! Support these endeavors by visiting the "Donate" link on the Chaplains Ministry website (below).

The chaplains have also had plenty of opportunities--especially in recent months--to be present with our troops during some darker times. Sadly, as you know, the law enforcement community has been unfairly painted with a broad stroke by misguided folks formed by a mainstream media that often seems to promote protesting over parenting.

Please do not let your faith be affected negatively by charlatans and members of the "clergy" whose intentions are anything but Judeo-Christian in nature. I am embarrassed and tired of apologizing for the counterproductive antics of those who invoke "religion" in calling for non-peaceful demonstrations/protests.

At the 009th district holiday/retirement party on 15 DEC, I shared a passage from the Bible that was cited by a captain from the 001st district when confronted by a protester who in his ignorance, waving a Bible in the captain's face, stated, "The police stand against what is in this Bible."

The captain, being well-versed in Sacred Scripture, kindly invited that protester to open his Bible to the 13th chapter of St. Paul's letter to the Romans. The protester--caught and embarrassed--walked away, completely disarmed. Kudos to that captain who peacefully and intelligently de-escalated the situation.

Here's the passage from Romans 13...I encourage you to mark it in your Bible at home:

*"Let every person be subordinate to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those [authorities] that exist have been established by God. Therefore, whoever resists authority opposes what God has appointed, and those who oppose authority will bring judgment upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear to good conduct, but to evil. Do you wish to have no fear of authority? Then do what is good and you will receive approval from it. **But if you do evil, be afraid, for lawful authority does not bear the sword without purpose.** It is the servant of God to inflict wrath on the evildoer. Therefore, it is necessary to be subject to authority not only because of the wrath of God but also because of good conscience." (Romans 13:1-5)*

That Word of God was written some 2,000 years ago by St. Paul to the residents of Rome during a tumultuous time. Isn't it interesting how all these years later it applies so well today? If you want to go back even further in history, check out Psalm 34, as well as passages from the Quran also citing the importance of your most important and noble work to preserve peace.



We in the Chaplains Section are also with you on the street regularly, as you well know. Here is a picture with officers from O14 after a late-night gun call last month at Wabansia and Western. Second from left, you'll see Joe Ahern, Chairman and CEO of the 100 Club of Chicago, who joined

Chaplain/PO Bob Montelongo and me that weekly night out on the street.

Please be assured--especially amid recent unfair criticism by some who are *not* in the know--that YOU ARE DOING GOD'S WORK every day.

Finally, on Tuesday, 19 JAN, an all-day **police suicide awareness and prevention** seminar will be held in Oak Brook. If you would like more information on this event, free of charge, please contact me.

God bless you and your God-ordained service to the people of this great city!

Fr. Dan Brandt, CPD Chaplain

1140 W. Jackson Blvd. | Chicago, IL 60607

773/550-2369 (cell/text)

dan.brandt@chicagopolice.org | www.ChicagoPCM.org

