

From Your Chaplain, Fr. Dan Brandt...



Have you seen the new mural on the railroad grade at 4700 W. Montrose? Dedicated last month, it's a beautiful piece of art listing all P.O.'s killed in the line of duty. In the teardrop on the woman's face is a likeness of ET Mike Flisk (Star 6962, EOW 27 NOV 2010). May he rest in peace, and may we never forget him or the hundreds of others who have made the ultimate sacrifice!

On September 10th, we had the opportunity once again to remember our fallen officers at the annual Candlelight Vigil at Gold Star Families Memorial and Park. Thank you to former superintendent Phil Cline and the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation for their hospitality...and for arranging this annual ceremony. And thank God for the beautiful weather we enjoyed!

An interesting story... An officer assigned to Midway Airport recently texted me to ask if I was the minister who wrote in to "Dear Abby" published in the Chicago Sun-Times on 27 AUG. It *wasn't* me, but I certainly share the same sentiments as that minister, who was upset that he wasn't notified of the imminent death of one of his parishioners—until it was too late. Had he known the condition of this member of his flock, he could have paid a visit prior to the man's death.

In my years of parish ministry, I have had similar unfortunate experiences—which prompts me to write on the topic. Please, **please, PLEASE**: if a family member is very ill and does not happen to have a minister to accompany them in their final stages of life on earth, let one of us CPD chaplains know. Don't wait until the last minute or *after* God calls them home. If they are **your** family, then they are **OUR** police family as well! We will gladly assist them, at the very least holding them in prayer.

While I don't usually read "Dear Abby," I do know the author assigns made-up names to those who write her. So...in the same vein, I'll say, THANKS to my buddy "Don B." from Midway for directing me to this worthwhile article.

Our city has seen plenty of death—often violent—in recent months. Please know that as you are given the grave and stressful task of dealing with this urban reality, we chaplains are with **you** on the streets and in prayer. If we can accompany you in any other way, or if we may ever be of ANY service to you or your family, we are only a phone call away: Chaplain Bob Montelongo (773/459-5089), Rabbi Moshe Wolf (773/463-4780), Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis (773/251-5351), Chaplain Joe Jackson (312/771-6684), or me (773/550-2369). All of these numbers also receive text messages.

Finally, in addition to our usual 11:00 a.m. Police Mass every 2nd and 4th Sunday, next month we'll celebrate a special Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday, 22 NOV, at 10:00 a.m. (Please note the adjustment in time for the holiday.) No matter your faith tradition, you are **most** welcome to attend. On-duty worshippers, you'll be out as usual in under 30 minutes.

God bless you in your most noble work,

Fr. Dan Brandt, CPD Chaplain

312/738-7588 (office) | 773/550-2369 (cell/text)
dan.brandt@chicagopolice.org | www.ChicagoPCM.org

