



From Your Chaplain, Fr. Dan Brandt...

On 17 JUL 1970, **Sgt. James L. Severin and Officer Anthony N. Rizzato** were killed by sniper fire outside Cabrini Green. On Saturday, 18 JUL 2020, 11:00 a.m., a 50th anniversary memorial tribute will be held at the 018th District to honor these two heroes. As of now, the ceremony is set to go on--practicing social distancing and following all appropriate directives.

In response to all the lawlessness and anarchy that has taken place on our streets in recent months, a friend shared with me a short essay written by the wife of a police officer/daughter of a retired CPD sergeant. I am afraid I don't know her name, so I can't give her the credit she richly deserves for this meaningful piece:

As a wife of a police officer and mother to three young daughters I find myself asking the question: What will I tell my kids in 20 years? It is important to have my answer ready for them as the unjust killing of George Floyd, the protests, the rioting, the looting, the shots fired, the bricks thrown, the destruction of businesses and the killing of police officers will surely leave its mark on history. My girls will ask questions and want to know how their dad, a police officer, played a role. My answer simply put, "Your dad carried out the GOOD."

He, along with so many police officers, answered the call to duty. These officers kissed their loved ones goodbye, hugged their children and went out to face the demons in the street. I will remind them that while others watched in horror from the comfort of their homes, police officers were met with words of hate, cars and buildings set ablaze, bullets, bottles, rocks and even Molotov cocktails thrown at them. I will tell my girls how our youngest kept asking for her Da-Da, as she hadn't seen him in days. And how my oldest stayed awake to make sure her dad made it through the door each night. I will tell them how I felt a mixture of anger and sadness as I once again had to defend my husband before others for holding the line.

I will tell them how I wept when I woke up to the headline that read, "Rioters target police across US; Four shot in St. Louis, One in Vegas, Bronx hit-and-run caught on video." With a heavy heart I will tell them how our country was divided when it needed to be united.

They will wonder how we got here and for now I do not have those answers. I do not understand how you take a legitimate crime and hijack it to create havoc in our streets. I do not know why the media chooses to highlight some deaths over others. I do not know why people are not more outraged by the death totals every weekend in Chicago. I do not know why when you share data on crime, no one seems to listen or care. These are things I do not know.

What I do know is that my girls are being raised in a home where they follow the golden rule, to treat others as you would want to be treated. They are colorblind but not character blind. They are learning that ALL Life Matters and to look for the good even when things are bad. I know that the majority of the police are good and that they risk their lives every day to protect our world. They run into danger as the rest of us flee it. I know my husband and so many officers are out there today and they are carrying out the GOOD.

Thank you for holding the line.



Wow! Beautifully worded. If anyone knows the author of this piece, would you please let me know?

Finally, Chaplain Joe Jackson is organizing a regular BIKING WITH THE CHAPLAINS trip to different locations throughout the city and surrounding area. Let's explore God's beautiful creation while getting some fresh air and enjoying each other's company. For scheduling information, or if you have a suggested bike path, please email Joseph.Jackson@ChicagoPolice.org.



In the meantime, may God bless you and keep you safe!

Fr. Dan Brandt, *Directing CPD Chaplain*

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