



From Your Directing Chaplain, Fr. Dan Brandt...



On 21 FEB 2025, Chicago Police Officer Efrain Chavez received a handmade quilt presented by Rabbi Moshe Wolf, Chaplain Hysni Selenica and me on behalf of **Quilts for Cops**.

Last year, Officer Chavez and his partners were injured as they responded to a disturbance at a gang funeral, where an enormous fight broke out. I happened to be on scene because I heard multiple 10-1's on the citywide zone, so I was able to

visit with Efrain and another badly-injured PO in the back of an ambulance. Thank God the good guys are all OK.

In recent months, Chaplain Selenica and our Chaplains Unit colleagues have been busy presenting quilts to deserving officers. To see all of them and read the related narratives, please visit our website's "Photo Album" page.

If you have a suggestion for a worthy quilt recipient, please contact Chaplain Selenica at Hysni.Selenica@ChicagoPolice.org.





05 MAR 2025: Chicago Police Chaplains and St. Jude Chaplains fanned out throughout the city to administer blessed ashes to thousands of CPD members in the districts, areas, specialized units and other civic locations. A highlight of our year, this is a wonderful opportunity to visit with so many of our brothers and sisters in a very positive setting.

Here you'll see St. Jude Chaplain Darrin Bourret (retired CPD) praying with and administering blessed ashes to a 26-year CPD retiree, and Deacon Rafael Yanez (CPD) administering ashes to an 008th district officer. We pray all will enjoy a fruitful and holy Lenten season.

This Lent has been tough on me so far...I gave up three of my favorite things: chocolate ice cream, marshmallows and nuts. It hasn't been easy; in fact, it has been a ROCKY ROAD! *(Sorry. That was really bad.)*

Thank you to all who attended the Upper Room Club at Pizano's on 13 MAR. And THANK YOU to our generous hosts at Pizano's for their constant kindness and support. If you're ever in the mood for some great pizza or pasta, check them out! They LOVE the police!

If you'd like to be added to the invitation list for Upper Room Club gatherings, please email me.

On 04 APR, a charity comedy night was held at the FOP hall, to raise raising funds for **Light the Line**, a police wellness charity founded by Ella French's mother, Elizabeth. I had the honor of serving as emcee. Thanks to all who supported the event, and thanks to our very funny officers who competed for bragging rights that evening.

Sunday, 20 APR, is Easter. We'll celebrate the police Mass at **10:00** a.m. at Mercy Home. No matter your faith tradition, ALL are welcome! More information on the police Mass can be found on our website.

Coming up on Friday evening, 25 APR, we have the "Battle of the Badges" boxing match between members of CPD and CFD, hosted by DeLaSalle High School. My friend and colleague Chaplain Hysni Selenica has been training for many months to compete in this event. Please join me in cheering him on!

I look forward to seeing some of you at the Illinois State Police Memorial in early May. What a great opportunity to pay honor to our local brothers and sisters who went to work and didn't return home. May they rest in peace!

Save the date! Your Department Chaplains are hosting a day-long marriage retreat on Friday, 27 JUN 25, 1000 hours-1500 hours at Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanical Gardens in Palos Heights.

We are excited to invite all active and retired Chicago Police Officers and their spouses to participate in this program intended to strengthen relationships, improve communication and achieve better work-life balance.

This retreat will provide a safe and supportive environment for couples to connect, share experiences and learn valuable relationship-building skills tailored to the unique challenges of law enforcement life. Childcare is included. Please contact Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis for more information at Kimberly.LewisDavis@ChicagoPolice.org or 312-771-6638.

Keep up with all of the above and LOTS more at www.ChicagoPCM.org.

No matter your faith tradition, thank you for doing God's work!

God bless you and keep you safe!

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