

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





On 29 JAN, Chicago Police Officer Ricardo Rivera received a handmade quilt from Quilts for Cops, who craft beautiful quilts for Chicago Police Officers injured in the line of duty.

On 11 NOV 2024, while on patrol, Officer Rivera on-viewed a person being stabbed several times. Officer Rivera intervened and was himself stabbed by the offender as he took action to save the victim.

The quilt was presented by Chaplain Hysni Selenica and Sgt. Erik Ruhnke (who is himself NO stranger to being on the receiving end of a stabbing!).

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

What a blessing it was for the other Christian chaplains and me to see so many friendly faces while making the annual citywide rounds on Ash Wednesday! I pray your Lenten journey is fruitful!



To that end, during this season of Lent, many people try to pray more intentionally. So, just a reminder: every Friday at 1:00 p.m. the Chaplains Section continues to facilitate a Bible study/prayer/faith-sharing group at the police academy. No matter your faith tradition, ALL are welcome to share and hear words of encouragement at these brief Christian-based gatherings.

A similar (though more intimate in size) non-denominational Christian prayer opportunity is offered every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at Public Safety Headquarters.

And Muslim (Jumma) prayers are offered every Friday at 1:00 p.m. in room 202 of the academy.



To confirm times, or if you'd like more information, please email Joseph.Jackson@ChicagoPolice.org, Kimberly.LewisDavis@ChicagoPolice.org, or Hysni.Selenica@ChicagoPolice.org.

In addition to our regular 2nd and 4th Sunday Masses at Mercy Home (11:00 a.m. at 1140 W. Jackson Boulevard), we'll gather for Mass on Easter morning (20 APR) at 10:00...note the difference in time for the holiday. More information can be found on the "Police Mass" link at www.ChicagoPCM.org

If the CPD Chaplains can ever be of ANY assistance/support to CPD members, retirees or families, please don't hesitate to call on us: Chaplain Bob Montelongo (773/459-5089), Chaplain Joe Jackson (312/771-6684), Chaplain Hysni Selenica (312/771-6692), Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis (312/771-6638), Rabbi Moshe Wolf (773/463-4780), or me (773/550-2369). All of these numbers (also listed in your FOP directory under "Chaplains") are cell phones and receive text messages. You can also email us through the chaplains' website. As with our sister unit EAP, you can be assured of our non-judgmental confidentiality.

In case you're seeing this column before Thursday, 13 MAR, our next Upper Room Club is that evening at 6:30 at Pizano's (21st and Indiana). Join us for some good faith-based conversation among like-minded folks.

On Friday, 04 APR at 6:00 p.m., a charity comedy night will be held at the FOP hall. We will be raising funds for **Light the Line**, a police wellness charity founded by Ella French's mother, Elizabeth. Come on out and laugh with several Chicago Police Officers who will take turns on stage to compete for funniest cop bragging rights.

Also next month, we have the "Battle of the Badges" boxing match between members of CPD and CFD. It'll be held Friday evening, 25 APR, at 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!

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!

I leave you with this Lenten meme I recently received...



God bless you and keep you safe,

Fr. Dan Brandt, *Directing CPD Chaplain*
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