

From Your New Chaplain...



About eight years ago, Fr. Tom Nangle invited me to help him with a few little things...from conducting Ash Wednesday services at local areas, to visiting a hospitalized officer or retiree here and there, to officiating over an occasional wake/funeral service. At that time, I was assigned to St. William Parish on the far west edge of Chicago (in 025), so whenever I could help out on the fringe of the city, I was happy to do so. My pastor and boss at that time was a friend of Fr. Nangle's, which was our connection.

In mid-2005, after a six-year assignment at St. William, I transferred to Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Bridgeport (*bringing with me a World Series Championship for the Chicago White Sox*). While serving a six-year term as pastor at Nativity, I continued my relationship with Fr. Nangle—helping him and the Chaplains Ministry as needed.

A few years back, Fr. Nangle and I did our math, and figured out that the conclusion of my term as pastor at Nativity would line up with his well-deserved retirement. So, we started moving in that direction. As a lifelong Chicagoan, I cannot think of a greater honor than to serve our men and women in blue on a full-time basis.

Thanks to the Police Department administration, Cardinal George and the Archdiocese of Chicago, *and some blessings from God*, things fell into place pretty nicely for all parties. Effective 01 JUL, I have begun my term as Director of the Chaplains' Unit. I thank those who have shown confidence in my ability to serve in this capacity, and I thank Fr. Tom Nangle for handing off this beautiful gift that he has nourished for the past four decades. Most of all, I thank **God** for the opportunity to serve the men and women who so faithfully serve and protect the people of this great city.

I am also grateful to Rabbi Moshe Wolf and Chaplain Bob Montelongo for the warm welcome they have shown me, the knowledge they have shared with me, and the good example they have provided me.

Finally, I thank **you** for the noble vocation you have chosen. You have heard it before, but you can't hear it enough: **Indeed, you are doing God's work!**

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