

Fr. Dan Brandt's Corner...

Chicago Police Officer Thien Chaiket, a US Army Reservist deployed to Afghanistan, contacted me a few months ago and asked if I could gather some stuffed animals for his team to distribute at a children's hospital under their watch. I put the word out to some of our PO's and—*not* surprisingly—got an incredible response. We collected and sent over 500 stuffed animals, a number far exceeding their expectations.



Special thanks to **PO Amelia Kessem**, **PO Veronica Ramirez**, and several officers in **011** who made this endeavor a huge success, returning smiles to the faces of countless sick children. May God bless all who participated. May God also give healing to these kids *and* protection to our troops!



A charity **golf outing will be held 13 JUN in memory of Joe Walski, CPD**, who passed away just over a year ago. For details and sponsorship opportunities, please visit our website.

As always, we will celebrate a special **Fathers' Day Mass** at Gold Star Memorial and Park at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, 21 JUN. Being an outdoor venue, if the weather looks questionable, please call (773) 550-2369 that morning to make sure the Mass is on. You are welcome to bring folding chairs or a blanket.

We recently mailed a letter to all of our regular Police Chaplains Ministry supporters, asking for financial assistance for our 20TH annual summer Gold Star Families outing. Later this month **we are again taking the Gold Star Families on a lakefront cruise aboard the *Spirit of Chicago***. It's a first-class event, as **we** (yes, with *your* help – **WE**) take care of everything: VIP parking, food, entertainment, pictures, etc. Our cruise ship is even escorted by CPD Marine Units with blue lights flashing. The most important component of our wonderful day together is this: we once again remind Gold Star Families that the loved ones they lost in the line of duty are **NEVER FORGOTTEN!** See some pictures from last year's event on our website's "Photo Album" page (click on 2014).

If you would like to help make this outing a success with your **100% tax-deductible contribution**, please visit our website or send a check to Police Chaplains Ministry, 1140 W. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60607. (Via CPD mail, you can reach us at Unit 118.)

If you did not receive a mailing but would like to be added to our mailing list, please call me at the number below or click on "Join our mailing list" on the website.

On Tuesday, 11 AUG, **O'Brien's Restaurant** (at North and Wells in Old Town) is generously hosting a fundraiser **Happy Hour for the Police Chaplains Ministry**. \$50 gets you unlimited food and drink from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. that evening. We are limited to 75 guests...so get your name on the list by emailing me (below). Come on out...I guarantee you'll be in good company!!!

Finally, have you been married civilly and would like to have your marriage blessed in the Church? Or, are you celebrating a special anniversary and would like to renew your marriage vows? The Chaplains' Office is gauging interest in a **GROUP inter-denominational wedding ceremony** to be held sometime in

the next six or eight months. If you and your better half would be interested in participating, please contact us soon so we can put together details regarding schedule and venue.

God bless you and keep you safe!

Fr. Dan Brandt, CPD Chaplain

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