

Fr. Dan Brandt's Corner...

When offering invocations at various events, I often start with a moment of silence to honor and remember those who lost their lives in the line of duty. As I begin this column, it would be most appropriate to ask you to take a moment of silence right now to honor and remember **Commander Paul Bauer**, who was murdered 13 FEB.

Eternal rest grant unto him, oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace; may his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed—through the mercy of God—rest in peace. Amen.

Last month in laying to rest Commander Bauer, our department suffered an incredible loss. As I mentioned in my homily at his funeral Mass, I pray that his death NOT be in vain. May it lead to well-needed and long-overdue reforms to our judicial and penal systems. May it also serve as a reminder to us of the fleeting nature of our earthly lives, inspiring us to conduct ourselves in a manner (like Paul) pleasing to God, making the most of a faith-filled life.

Police Chaplains Ministry had 8,000 memorial cards printed for Paul's wake, funeral, and the memorial Mass celebrated Sunday 25 FEB. Many people who were not able to attend these occasions have reached out to me, asking how they can get a memorial card. These cards are available to view and print from our website (click "Line of Duty Memorial Cards"). Or, if you'd like a memorial card mailed to you, simply contact me.

Please continue to pray for Paul's amazingly strong family: his wife, Erin, his daughter, Grace, his parents, siblings and extended family members who all miss him so profoundly.



On to some good news: the Chaplains Section has been blessed with a new addition! Effective first period, we took on **PO Hysni Selenica**. Hysni (pronounced Who's Knee) has been a Chicago Police Officer since 2000, serving all 18 years in the 001st District. Since 2014, he has also served on the Mental Health Committee with the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 7.

Hysni is an active member of his native Southwest side community where he serves on the board of Horizon Science Academy. He also teaches Karate to inner-city youth and is training for second-degree black belt. Representing the Muslim faith, Hysni has over the years been involved in interfaith dialogue and service projects with various faith communities. He is currently studying at the Chicago Theological Seminary, and has been happily married to his wife Yasmine since he was a recruit in the police academy. Hysni hit the ground running and has already proven himself a tremendous asset to our mission.

As you know, the **Chicago Police Memorial Foundation** hosts annual **Police Suicide Awareness and Prevention Seminars** featuring nationally-known experts. The next seminar will be held Wednesday, 28 MAR, at the usual location in Oak Brook. Seating is limited. For more information, please contact me.

Planning ahead, on Sunday, 08 APR, a benefit will be held for the **Markham children**. It'll take place from 2:00-8:00 p.m. at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox. Entrance donation is \$30 per adult (\$50 per couple) and \$10 for kids. For more information, please email MarkhamBenefit@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

As we progress through the Lenten season, please remember—no matter your faith tradition—you're always welcome to worship at the **Police Mass** every 2nd and 4th Sunday, 11:00 a.m., at Mercy Home: 1140 W. Jackson Boulevard. Mass is kept under 30 minutes for those who would like to attend during their lunch break. Please note that on Easter Sunday, 01 APR, like all holidays, our Mass is moved up to 10:00 a.m.

Stay safe and keep the faith,

Fr. Dan Brandt, CPD Chaplain

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