



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



Police Chaplains Ministry recently hosted Chicago's **Gold Star Families** (GSF) at our 27th annual luncheon/sightseeing cruise downtown, aboard the *Spirit of Chicago*.

This was a first-class outing: we took care of everything from VIP parking to entertainment, pictures, beverages and lunch, right through dessert—plus a gift to take home (a lovely GSF-embroidered beach towel which is now available for you to purchase on our website's "Merchandise" page).

Guests were greeted by CPD Canine Officer Ron, and our cruise ship was escorted by CPD Marine and Helicopter Units. We even secured tickets for our guests to the Ferris Wheel and the new "Chicago Flyover Experience." These deserving folks **loved** it. We pulled out all the stops to make sure our Gold Star Families know they and their loved ones will ALWAYS be remembered!

Thank you to our generous donors who make such events possible each year!





At 1:50 a.m. on Tuesday, 02 JUL, hundreds gathered at Belmont and Western to memorialize PO Richard Francis. This was our 15th year doing so at the exact time and place where his life was stolen from us in 2008.



More recently, we lost PO Ella Grace French three years ago. Her anniversary of death is 07 AUG.



Rick's and Ella's memorial cards, along with many others, can be downloaded and printed from our website. May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed—especially those who have died in service to others—rest in peace.

On Sunday afternoon, 14 JUL, about 250 bicyclists arrived at CPD Headquarters for a ceremony to commemorate their four-day, 350-mile ride from Edwardsville, Illinois. Many of our own Chicago brothers and sisters were among the riders. This was an event sponsored by Illinois COPS (Concerns of Police Survivors), to remember our state-wide fallen officers from this past year...and it was an honor to be among them!

Thank you to Pizano's Pizza and Pasta at 21st and Indiana for once again hosting our Upper Room Club on 25 JUL. When choosing a pizza place, please remember how much Pizano's supports the police. If you'd like to add your name to the Upper Room Club invitation list, please email me. It's a wonderful opportunity to share faith, learn about the Divine, and enjoy a meal with like-minded folks.

Looking ahead...On Saturday, 21 SEP, the Brotherhood For The Fallen's annual Blue Tie Gala takes place at the Hyatt Regency in Rosemont. Get your tickets before they sell out (available on the Brotherhood's website). This year I again have the pleasure of co-hosting the event with my dear friend Suzanne LeMignot from CBS Channel 2.

I'll be celebrating a Blue Mass on St. Michael's feast day, Sunday, 29 SEP, 9:30 a.m. at St. Benedict Parish in Blue Island...and on the same day at 12:00 noon at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Orland Park.

Then, the following Sunday, 06 OCT, 10:30 a.m., another Blue Mass will be held at "Chicago's Mother Church," Holy Name Cathedral downtown.

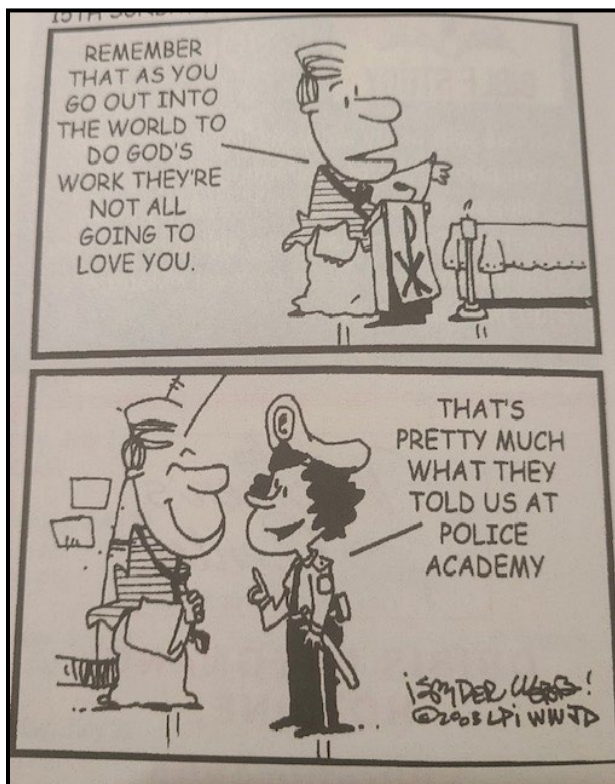
For many years, this has been an annual tradition at these parishes and dozens of others throughout the city and suburbs. We remain grateful for their support of—and prayers for—the law enforcement family!

As always, ALL are welcome (no matter your faith tradition) to join us in praying with and for our officers at these Blue Masses. You can find more information about them on our website's home page.

Finally, please join us for an upscale afternoon happy hour event at Orso's (1401 N. Wells Street in Old Town) on Thursday, 03 OCT, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. A \$100 donation to Police Chaplains Ministry gets you three hours of open bar and "Heavy" appetizers...*in other words, DINNER!* Tickets are limited and can be purchased on our website.

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

I leave you with a cartoon that a retiree sent me, which he saw in his church bulletin last month. That particular Sunday, the Gospel message included Jesus' "Sending out" of the first apostles.



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

Fr. Dan Brandt, *Directing CPD Chaplain*
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