

Dear Brothers and Sisters



This week, in my capacity as a Police Chaplain, I attended a three-day course at the Bergen County Police Academy. The course was for active-duty Police Officers, there were thirty of them from different Police Departments on my course.

One exercise asked the Police Officers to write a letter to someone who had been an important positive influence in their life. The letter was to express gratitude to this person, saying how they had made a difference in that Officers life. Five minutes silence while everyone writes.

The instructor then asked for a volunteer to share who it was they wrote to. Awkward silence in the room. Then a few piped up, sharing the names of the people they had written to, and why.

Then the instructor then asked for a volunteer to actually call the person they had written to, and read them the letter over the phone. Even longer, more awkward silence!! Not an easy ask of a room full of cops! But one cop volunteered. He had written his letter to his mom, and, to the amazement, chuckles and joy of us all, he proceeded to call her on speaker phone!

I think he was praying she wouldn't pick up, but she did. The room was silent, as we all listened.

Cop: 'Hi Mom, it's me...' Mom: 'Oh hi sweetie, how are you?'

He told his Mom where he was, and that as part of a training exercise he had been asked to write a letter of gratitude to a person he was thankful for, and that he was calling because he had written to her, and that she was on speaker phone in a room full of cops.

She said 'OK', and then her son read the letter to her, for all of us to hear.

We listened in silence.

Mom: 'O honey, that's so sweet, I don't know what to say, you made my day...'

The room erupted in applause, with loud whoops and high fives, and everyone shouting to the speaker 'I love you Mom!'

That event changed the whole mood of the rest of the afternoon for all of us there.

Each of us have a phone call we could make. Each of us have a letter we could write, and read it to them. Our Mom will listen on the phone, or from Heaven. Our Moms deserve to hear our gratitude. Expressing our gratitude to them also changes who we are.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Fr. Sean