

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

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May 2018

Sacrifice

1. (*noun*): destruction or surrender of something for the sake of something else; something given up or lost
2. (*verb*): to suffer loss, give up, renounce, injure, or destroy for an ideal, belief, or end

In the month of May, our nation honors two particular vocations in life, both of which exemplify the definition of the word *sacrifice*.

The first is the vocation of the Law Enforcement officer, specifically the honoring of those officers who have paid the ultimate price of their very life given in the fulfillment of their duty. Motivated by their commitment to protect others, their devotion to that end placed these officers in a position resulting in their lives being “laid down” in order that we be protected.

Across our nation, Law Enforcement Memorials provide the public and colleagues an opportunity to honor these fallen public safety officers. It is a solemn and meaningful ceremony, consisting of elements that produce thought, reflection, and gratitude. Bagpipes, a flag at half mast, “TAPS,” and a 21-gun salute stir those present to remember who have passed. It is essential to give tribute to these men and women who deserve the highest honor and recognition, and to acknowledge their sacrifice and the sacrifice of their families who grieve their absence. Our law enforcement officers deserve our gratitude for taking on such a tough job in today’s society with courage and resolve. Giving thanks is the least we can do!

The second vocation commemorated in the month of May is that of Motherhood. Mother’s Day is designed to celebrate moms—those women of which the word “sacrifice” is synonymous! The definition of “surrendering something for the sake of something else” adequately describes the daily life of mothers everywhere. The unconditional love and care they pour out for their families is supernatural! They give up and give out so much time, energy, attention, and affection for the little “something else’s” scampering about their feet with various degrees of need. It’s a wonder we only celebrate them once a year. What dedication and devotion!

My husband believes the greatest expression of love we can experience next to God’s love for us is that of a mother’s love for her child—it is sacrificial, selfless, and unconditional. Jesus describes the greatest of loves with His words: “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13).

As we celebrate and remember our moms and our public safety officers, let’s take the time to thank them for all they have sacrificed for us!

Janet LaPore

County-Wide Chaplaincy is a non-profit ministry. / WWW.911CHAPLAIN.ORG

Remember to pray for our first responders. They go to the need, even when it means they will experience first hand the pain and losses in our county. They do this willingly so that we don't have to. It can be dangerous, and it can be hard to walk away emotionally unscarred. Please pray for their safety, both physically and emotionally. We need them and we are all so grateful for them!

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