

# County-Wide Chaplaincy

## Thanks you!

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### September 2018

*“When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself...”*  
(Matthew 14:13a)

This phrase of Scripture is rather interesting to me as a Chaplain, but you may be wondering just what was it that Jesus heard that preceded his quest for solitude. The prior 12 verses explain the story of the final day of John the Baptist’s life, one that ended in execution after King Herod had ordered his imprisonment. Verse 12 explains that John’s disciples took his body, buried him, and then delivered the news to Jesus; in essence, a death notification.

Having been involved in more than one kind of notification it seems to me that they vary considerably in terms of the ability of the recipient to absorb the news. For example, a notification that a 95-year-old woman who passes of natural causes in a nursing home is sad, but somewhat natural and not totally unexpected. Whereas a suicide or murder is also very sad and can be accompanied by shock, guilt, or anger as well as leaving many unanswered questions.

Let’s consider that Jesus and John had a very special relationship. John, the Bible says, was given the task of preparing the way for the Messiah. And Jesus once said that among those born of women there was not a greater man than John the Baptist. Also, John was the one who baptized Jesus in water!

What was Jesus thinking or praying about while he went away and spent time in solitude? Perhaps he was overwhelmed with grief—understandably so. Maybe He was angry with Herod, and needed to blow some steam. Maybe God was angry at Herod for killing John, and the many others who weren’t treating Jesus very well. So, who knows? Perhaps Jesus was interceding for us humans, just as Abraham and Moses did before Him. Maybe one day we’ll have the opportunity to ask Him.

What we do know, however, is that the Bible says when Jesus made it back to the shore he was greeted by thousands of sick and hungry people. He got out of the boat, and despite whatever emotions He was experiencing, He ministered anyway. He healed all their sick, and then proceeded to feed over 5000 men as well as their family members, performing one of the greatest miracles in the Bible.

As Chaplains we are called to a Ministry of Presence. Though none of us would ever claim to be able to do what only Jesus can do, we hope however that we can shine His light while we are on scene. It is our ministry to be able to navigate through very chaotic and highly emotional circumstances, and focus on the needs of the first responders and those close to the decedent in pretty much any way we can.

We are also very aware of the prayers of those who support us. When I am driving to a call, and even on scene, I am comforted by the fact that many of you are praying for us. I believe I can speak for us all when I say thank you for your support. We are honored to serve.

Chaplain Rob Pool

*Please remember to pray for the safety of all our first responders.  
We are all so grateful for them!*

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