

I had the privilege of attending the graduation of the 181st Entrant Officer Class held at the Academy this past Thursday evening. The officer standing next to me, (the auditorium was standing room only), recalled that it had been almost 20 years since his graduation, but he remembered the day and the event as clearly as if it had happened the day before.

I trust that could be said of every officer. You remember that life-changing day, when you took the oath, received your badge, and began your law enforcement “career.” I put career in quotes because serving as a police officer is not a career in the normal sense of that word, rather it is a mission and a ministry, a calling to carry on the noble duty of those who have gone before, “to protect and serve.”

As we chaplains ride-a-long we get to experience some of what you do to protect and serve.

For instance, you referee a neighbor dispute, you assist a citizen who has been the victim of crime, and you arrest those who do harm to the fabric of our society. And you do so in a manner that makes it clear that you are there to help, in whatever way you can because helping others is one of the main reasons you stood up that day, a year ago or 25 years ago, raised your right hand, and took the oath as a Kansas City Missouri Police Officer.

Please know that you are always in our prayers. And we chaplains are always ready to help and support you in any way we can. There is now a 24/7 Prayer Line available to you – 816-726-7729 -- which will put you in direct contact with a KCPD Chaplain.

Now May the Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and give you peace, this day and always.

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