

Interfaith Airport Chapels of Chicago
Chicago O'Hare & Midway International Airports
www.airportchapels.org

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Summer, 2017

Dear Friend of Chicago's Airport Chapels,

My favorite experiences as an airport chaplain are the encounters I have with airport workers and travelers as I go out and walk among the people in the airport. Some people I see regularly and often. I get to know them. I ask them about their families and if anyone is in need of special prayers.

Noe was a window washer at O'Hare. I would see him often in various parts of the airport, and he was occasionally assigned to clean the Chapel's windows. He was always happy, smiling and laughing. He spoke often about his family. His co-workers enjoyed him, and he lifted their spirits. He was a model employee. His superiors knew that he always clocked in early and had tremendous pride in doing his job well.

One day Noe did not report to work or call in sick. This was so uncharacteristic of him that his supervisor called the police and asked for a well-being check. The police discovered that Noe and five of his family members were brutally murdered in their own home. This horrible tragedy affected the neighborhood where he lived and the parish he attended. It was devastating to the O'Hare community, particularly Noe's co-workers.

The O'Hare Airport Chapel became a focal point for these grieving people. It was standing room only for a memorial service and several Masses where the intention was for Noe and his family. The employees would stop in often for a few moments of prayer or to seek some words of comfort from me or one of the associate chaplains.

For many months as I made my "daily rounds" in the airport, I would pay special attention to those who knew Noe or worked with him. I invited them to talk about him. I prayed with them and for them. I blessed them and helped them see God's presence in the midst of this tragedy. This kind of ongoing pastoral care is an important dimension of airport chaplaincy.

This story I shared emphasizes the importance of the airport chaplaincies at O'Hare and Midway International Airports. Your financial contribution and your prayers make this ministry possible. Your generosity enables us to provide religious services, clergy for emergencies, pastoral care, and quiet places for prayer, meditation and reflection.

Thank you for your continued support. Know that you are always in our prayers. Please also pray for me, my colleagues, and all of the people we serve at Chicago's Airports.

May God always bless you and your loved ones,

Rev. Fr. Michael G. Zaniolo, STL, CAC
Administrator

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Summer Appeal Response Form

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