

**Interfaith Airport Chapels of Chicago**  
**Chicago O'Hare & Midway International Airports**  
[www.airportchapels.org](http://www.airportchapels.org)

P.O. Box 66353  
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Summer, 2018

Dear Friend of Chicago's Airport Chapels,

The O'Hare Airport Chaplaincy began in 1960, and in 1988 at Midway. Our primary mission was and still is to care for the spiritual needs of the airline and airport workers. The pastoral care of the traveler, however, is just as important for us!

One day, as I was making my usual rounds in the terminals, I saw a 40ish traveler examining the signs, looking confused, and heading towards the information booth. She wanted to know the directions to a particular restaurant that sold salad in a mason jar. As I gave her directions (and mentioned that my physician says I should start eating more salad) I noticed that she was wearing a sweatshirt with the word "NAVY" on it.

I said, "Are you in the Navy and do you know that we have two USO's at O'Hare?" "No Father, my husband was in the Navy, and he died a month ago," she replied. As we continued our conversation she told me that he died suddenly and they have teenage children.

I did what a chaplain would normally do in this situation: I invited her to tell me about him and their children. I asked for all their first names, I offered to pray with her or give her a blessing. I promised to pray for all of them. She looked like a woman full of hope, grateful that someone was praying for her and her family, helping them bear the burden of grief, letting them know that God was with them.

The people at the information booth were amazed and said, "We've never really observed you in action before. That was marvelous!"

About an hour later, after I finished my rounds, I went back to my office and found a mason jar salad. She had stopped by to say how grateful she was and wanted me to enjoy a healthy lunch!

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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