

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

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Thanksgiving 2017

Dear Friend of Chicago's Airport Chapels,

I have mixed feelings this Thanksgiving. My heart is heavy for the millions of people affected by shootings, floods, fires and hurricanes. My heart is also filled with joy & gratitude for being able to alleviate some of that suffering. Allow me to explain: When Hurricane Irma caused some intense destruction on the island of St. Martin in September, hundreds of university students, faculty, their families, and their pets were evacuated to O'Hare. Department of Aviation and City of Chicago personnel, the Salvation Army, and our airport chaplains welcomed six flights (some in the wee hours of the morning) of evacuees at a reception center at O'Hare Airport. We cared for their immediate needs, comforted them, and helped to strengthen their human dignity during their process of moving into temporary housing in the Chicago area.



Two weeks later, our assistance was requested again to receive evacuees from Puerto Rico at O'Hare Airport that were coming to or passing through Chicago.



For five nights, our chaplains helped give out blankets, food, water, and diapers. We also gave blessings, comfort, and the peace that only comes from God to those who weathered a horrible storm and, in some cases, lost their homes & possessions.

During these emergency response calls, our staff, chaplains, and volunteers worked overtime to offer assistance to the evacuees at night, while still maintaining their normal operations by day. Everyone was happy to know that the Interfaith Airport Chaplaincy of Chicago was present, visible, and accessible. We were praying with them, for them, and rolled up our sleeves next to them.

Pastoral care for airport & airline personnel is the reason that airport chaplaincies were established. The O'Hare and Midway Chapels were founded in 1960 and 1988 respectively. Airport ministry has grown to not only serve personnel, but the traveler as well.

We are grateful for your prayers and support this Thanksgiving and throughout the year. Please know that without your support, we would never be able to offer the religious services, emergency response, and the ministry of presence we do at Chicago's airports. Your generosity keeps our doors open for our normal operations and keeps us ready and prepared for the extraordinary things we do. I am asking for your financial support of the Interfaith Airport Chapels of Chicago. Whatever you can give is most welcome and will be put to good use.

May God bless you and your loved ones with safe travels. Please feel free to stop by and say hello whenever you are on a break from work or are traveling. Please keep me and the Chicago airport chaplain teams in your prayers. Know that you are always in ours.

Sincerely,

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

Interfaith Airport Chapels of Chicago

Thanksgiving Appeal Response Form

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