Redemption!!

As a kick off to Corky’s Early Bird Softball Tournament, the Owatonna Police Department competed in the 2nd annual charitable Guns vs. Hoses softball game against our good friends from the Owatonna Fire Department. Last year in the inaugural event, we took it on the chin in a 16-2 loss to the fire department. This year, led by team captain Brandon Fandel, the police department vowed revenge and our team members began a regimented training program to be ready for this year’s game. It seems the training paid off as the department avenged last year’s butt-whipping with one of our own, defeating the fire department comfortably in an 18-4 laugher. The picture to the side is the Owatonna Police Department team holding the traveling trophy that is awarded to the winning team; a trophy, by the way, which is expected to take permanent residence in the law enforcement center! We can’t wait for round 3!

Introducing Your Chaplains—

One of the initiatives Chief Hiller sought to bring to the department was to implement a Chaplain Program and we are proud to say it is now a reality. Police chaplain programs exist as means to enhance police services in the community by providing spiritual care and compassion to any individual in need, including first responders following a critical incident and/or times of crisis in a person's life. On May 8th, the chaplains attended their first orientation and training session with Captain Mundale to help prepare them for field service call-outs. The training also provided the chaplains with knowledge and an understanding of a police officer's role during a critical incident response and how the two services will work together.

Gov. Dayton Signs Synthetic Drug Bill—

Governor Mark Dayton has signed a new law that updates the statutory controlled substance schedules so that they match the controlled substance schedules maintained by the Board of Pharmacy. This law is aimed at further stifling the sale and use of dangerous synthetic drugs. The law also modifies the definition of synthetic cannabinoids (marijuana) and enhances the penalties for selling such substances. The new law will go into effect on August 1, 2012.

Bullying—What Adults Need to Know—

- 160,000 children skip school every day because they fear being attacked or intimidated by other students.
- The U.S. Department of Justice states that 37% of all students don’t feel safe at school.
- The National Institute of Health reports that a third of students in 6th to 10th grades nationwide experienced some kind of bullying.
- 90% of 4th through 8th graders report being victims of bullying.
- Students reported 71% of the teachers or other adults in the classroom ignored bullying incidents.
- One in six children who bully will have a criminal record before the age of 24.
- Although much bullying happens where adults cannot see or hear it, it also happens when adults are present. Often adults don’t do anything to stop the bullying.
- When asked, students uniformly expressed the desire that teachers intervene rather than ignore teasing and bullying.

*Courtesy of the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association

Back row, left to right—Chaplain Loren Olson, Chaplain Mark Rosenau, Chaplain Brent Carlson and Chaplain Ron Wilson

Front row, left to right—Chaplain Gena Koeberl and Chaplain Nancy Deetz

National Law Enforcement Week—

May 15th was designated National Peace Officer’s Memorial Day in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy. The week containing May 15th was designated National Police Week. National activities are hosted each year in Washington DC to honor those law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice the previous calendar year and to offer support to the survivors of those officers as well as survivors of other years.