



Spokane County Sheriff Chaplaincy

October 2025 Newsletter

Lead Chaplain

Robert Kinnune

Assistant Lead Chaplain

Ryan Stemkoski

Senior Chaplains

Jake Burkholder

Rochelle Renninger

Garry Losey

Chaplains

Joe Fruci

Jaylynn Lawrence

Marilyn Salmon

Steve Beck

TJ Gaia *

Anthony Rogers *

Cade Clarke *

JR Stanley *

Cliff Foster *

Support Team

Yvonne Losey

Renee Townsley

Marilyn Van Tassel

* Currently Probationary
staff in training

Support Your Chaplains

Because of generous supporters like you we're able to care for our law enforcement family and community.

How you can give:

- [On Our Website](#)

- Venmo

- By Check

- Payroll Deductions

- Visit us at our

Chaplain Office in the
DEM Building



Sheriff Chaplain's Corner

NECESSARY BITTERNESS?

Denatonium is a chemical compound discovered by accident in 1958. It has the misfortune of having the bitterest taste of all chemicals. It is so bitter that, if you were to mix only 10 parts per million in a gallon of milk, it would make even a teaspoon of the milk nearly impossible to drink.

So it's not surprising that one of its commercial names is "Aversion." But how could such a nasty chemical ever hope to have commercial value or be of any use to humans? No one would ever want to put it in their mouth. Chemical flavoring is only of value if it enhances or improves the taste of something, right?

But what if a toxin that is deadly to humans happens to have a pleasant flavor? For instance, antifreeze has a sweet taste to both humans and

animals. Yet it is a deadly toxin. It will kill the person or animal who consumes it, as it has done to thousands of pets and many children.

And herein lies the value of Denatonium. As an excellent "aversive agent," Denatonium is added to household products like antifreeze, windshield washer, rat poison, solvents, varnishes, and paints to prevent a child or pet from accidentally ingesting them. Some American states actually require Denatonium additives to be in such products before they can be bought or sold. In fact, Denatonium has been credited with saving many lives. Its terrible taste serves as a warning to all who might otherwise consume a poison.

You know, in a way, God has done the same thing to guard us against the poisons that would destroy our souls. He adds a bitter taste to sin, to keep us from enjoying its deadly brew. But a measure of bitterness is a necessary additive to all of life. God must add some bitterness to our lives to humble us and protect us from pride that always precedes a fall (Proverbs 16:18), to guard us against arrogance, which turns God's stomach (1 Peter 5:5), to keep us from heartlessness and ruthlessness, which cut us off from God's mercy (Matthew 6:15).

God may allow us to be broken physically to teach us compassion for the sick and infirm. He may even allow us to be broken spiritually by temptation and sin - that we might learn our desperate need for God's forgiveness and teach us to be forgiving toward others (Romans 5:20; 11:32; Galatians 3:19-24).

God gets no delight in seeing us suffer. He allows bitterness to do its "harsh work" in us - perhaps a very painful work - that we may be transformed into His image and become true sons of God (Luke 6:35-36).

PRAYER: Dear Father in heaven, help me to understand that the bitter side of life has its essential purpose in my life - to protect me from the deadly toxins of sin, pride, unforgiveness, bitterness, and heartlessness - and to make me more like You and more fit for heaven.

In Jesus' Holy Name, Amen.

(From The 593rd ESC Book of Inspiration for Spiritual Resiliency)

Support the Chaplaincy with Payroll Deductions

Are you a Spokane County employee? Did you know you can support the chaplaincy and our mission? Learn more and sign-up online:

<https://scsochaplains.org/payroll-deduction/>





Peer Team Retreat

Chaplains Joe and Ryan joined Chaplain Board Member Sgt. Marty Tucker and members of the SCSO Peer Team for a retreat in September, where they piloted new training designed to help deputies more effectively navigate the unique challenges they face as first responders.



Chaplains Officiate Graveside Service for Sgt. Salas

Lead Chaplain Robert Kinnune and Senior Chaplain Rocky helped officiate the graveside service for Sgt. Ken Salas on September 30. It was a beautiful and moving ceremony, honoring our brother as he was laid to rest alongside his family and close colleagues. Please keep the family and all impacted in your prayers.



Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims

The Spokane County Sheriff Chaplaincy joins the Prosecutor's Office in thanking the families, friends, and community members who gathered for today's Day of Remembrance for murder victims. Losing a loved one to violence leaves deep wounds that extend far beyond the moment of loss. Please pray for these families as they navigate their grief and loss.

Talk to a Chaplain

Whether you're an officer, county employee, community member, or just need someone to talk to, our chaplain team is here for you.

- 24x7 Support Spiritual
- Guidance & Referrals
- Pastoral Counseling
- Conversation
- Crisis Intervention
- Weddings & Funerals

Supporters of the Month



The Love Factor

Thank you to The Love Factor for their generous support and partnership in helping us care for first responders, their families, and our community.