**PRAYER FOR THOSE**

**IN LAW ENFORCEMENT**

This prayer is in memory for all law enforcement officers who have been killed or injured in Dallas, Raton Rouge and in the line of duty this year.

Creator, Gracious and Loving God, we place in your hands those men and women committed to protecting us. Please keep them safe and from becoming overwhelmed by the enormity of their task. Send your Holy Spirit to guide them in the split decisions that must be made.

**I'm Just Like You**

author unknown

I have been where you fear to be;

I have seen what you fear to see;

I have done what you fear to do;

All these things I have done for you.

I am the one you lean upon,

The one you cast your scorn upon,

The one you bring your troubles to,

All these things I have been for you.

The one you ask to stand apart,

The one you feel should have no heart,

The one you call the "man in blue";

But I am a person, just like you.

And when you watch a person die

And hear a battered baby cry,

Then do you think that you can be

All these things you ask of me?

**Reading: When God Made Police Officers...** When the Lord was creating police officers, he was into his sixth day of working overtime when an angel appeared and said, "You sure are doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

And the Lord said, "Have you read the specs on this order?

A police officer has to be able to run five miles through alleys in the dark, scale walls, enter homes the health inspector wouldn't touch, and not wrinkle his uniform.

"He has to be able to sit in an undercover car all day on a stakeout, cover a homicide scene that night, canvass the neighborhood for witnesses, and testify in court the next day.

"He has to be in top physical condition at all times, running on black coffee and half-eaten meals. And he has to have six pairs of hands."

The angel shook her head slowly and said, "Six pairs of hands... no way."

"It's not the hands that are causing me problems," said the Lord, "it's the three pairs of eyes an officer has to have."

"That's on the standard model?" asked the angel.

The Lord nodded. One pair that sees through a bulge in a pocket before he asks, "May I see what's in there, sir?" (When he already knows and wishes he'd taken that accounting job.)

"Another pair here in the side of his head for his partners' safety.

And another pair of eyes here in front that can look reassuringly at a bleeding victim and say, 'You'll be all right ma'am, when he knows it isn't so."

"Lord," said the angel, touching his sleeve, " why don't you rest and work on this tomorrow."

"I can't," said the Lord, "I already have a model that can talk a 250 pound drunk into a patrol car without incident and feed a family of five on a civil service paycheck."

The angel circled the model of the police officer very slowly, "Can it think?" she asked.

"You bet," said the Lord. "It can tell you the elements of a hundred crimes; recite Miranda warnings in its sleep; detain, investigate, search, and arrest a gang member on the street in less time than it takes five learned judges to debate the legality of the stop... and still it keeps its sense of humor.

This officer also has phenomenal personal control. He can deal with crime scenes painted in hell, coax a confession from a child abuser, comfort a murder victim's family, and then read in the daily paper how law enforcement isn't sensitive to the rights of criminal suspects."

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek of the police officer. "There's a leak," she pronounced. "I told you that you were trying to put too much into this model."

"That's not a leak," said the lord, "it's a tear."

"What's the tear for?" asked the angel.

"It's for bottled-up emotions, for fallen comrades, for commitment to that funny piece of cloth called the American flag, for justice."

Author Unknown

**Creator, we pray for our police officers**

We ask of them

Courage to face and

Conquer their own fears...

Courage to take them

Where others will not go...

Give them strength of body to protect others

And strength of spirit to lead others...

Bless them with dedication to their job,

And to do it well

Dedication to their community to keep it safe...

Give them concern

For others who trust them

And compassion for those who need them

And please Lord through it all

Be at their side and keep them safe.

Watch over our dear police officers

And protect them with your love.

Please guide them as they keep us

safe both day and night

And hold them firmly in your care

should danger come their way.

Give them true strength and courage

As they serve til duty's end

And one more thing to ask dear Lord

Protect their family and their friends.

We ask all this in Jesus name. Amen