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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brother Thomas Harding, F.S.C., Joins Lombard Fire Department As Chaplain

LOMBARD, Illinois—“It’s nice to know that there’s someone you can turn to in a time of need,” said Battalion Chief Ron Rakosnik of the Lombard Fire Department. “For our family, the fire department, or for the family we are assisting, I know that he’ll be there to help and listen,” he added.

Rakosnik is speaking of Brother Thomas Harding, F.S.C., who is on the Development Staff of Montini Catholic High School and newly-named Chaplain for the Lombard Fire Department. Harding was preceded by Father Donald Castle as Lombard’s former Chaplain, who passed away last November.

Brother Harding, who is no stranger to the duties of being a chaplain, is also concurrently serving as the Chaplain for the York Center Fire Protection District, which he has been serving for approximately 15 years.

“The Department is very lucky to have Brother Harding as our Chaplain,” said George Seagraves, Lombard’s Fire Chief. “He has both background and interest in the fire service and firefighters,” added Seagraves.

Harding, who has completed graduate studies Religious Studies/Scripture from Loyola University, also holds a Master’s Degree in Administrative Leadership and a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science and History from DePaul University. He is affiliated with many religious, business and professional organizations including the

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Catholic Schools Office Board, Diocese of Joliet; OakBrook Rotary; Lombard Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Knights of Columbus, 6090 Council and the Board of America's Children's Village, to name a few.

“It has been an honor, and it has been humbling, to serve the needs of the crew members of the York Center Fire Department the past 15 years,” Brother Harding pointed out. As he continues to serve with them in that capacity, he looks “very much forward to being of service to the men and families and the greater Lombard community through his appointment to Chaplain by Chief Seagraves and the Trustees.”