


After the parade, will Chicago still be 'a tale of two cities'?

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Chicago celebrated the first World Series championship of its beloved Cubs in 108 years with a procession Friday that started at Wrigley Field and ended in a massive rally at Grant Park downtown. Even the Chicago River was dyed Cubbie blue.

But the Rev. Michael Pfleger, an activist priest who has lived and worked for decades at Faith Community of St. Sabina, is urging revelers not to forget the bloodshed on the streets of Chicago's South Side.

"Is the city going to be different when the last 'W' flag is flying and the last party has gone on in Chicago and we go back to normal and there will still be this tale of two cities?" Pfleger asked.

When Cubs fans awoke to a new era Thursday after the World Series win, Pfleger posted a small stark reminder on his Facebook page: "CONGRATS CHICAGO CUBS.....GREAT SERIES AND CLOSE OUT!!!!.....but let's not ignore that while the celebration continues....6 KILLED and 15 WOUNDED since Yesterday....."

2016 has been the deadliest year in two decades when it comes to homicide rates.

There have been 632 homicides in the city so far this year, compared with 492 in 2015, according to the Chicago Tribune. Most have occurred on the West and South sides.

"I know people say there were numbers in the '90s that were worse, but I don't remember the despair and the hopelessness and the anger that I'm seeing right now," said Pfleger, pastor of Chicago's largest African-American Catholic church.

"I've never seen the distrust of the police like right now. In the community, there's just this real sense of abandonment."

Pfleger said he's not discounting the importance of the win by the Cubs, who beat the Cleveland Indians 8-7 in extra innings Wednesday after a rain delay that forced groundskeepers to pull out the tarp at Progressive Field during an epic Game 7.