



WHAT REALLY GRINDS MY GEARS...

by Timothy J. Muise

How can anyone but the Catholic Church decide if I can serve as a Eucharistic Minister? You would think no one could, but in the strange and restrictive world of prison there is another entity which feels they wield the power of God.

The prison administration issued an order that I "cease and desist" acting as a Eucharistic Minister. Now as far as I am concerned it is a real laughter: I am a Eucharistic Minister and have served as one at every prison I have ever been held captive. What irks me is that this is the world I live in: one where serving God is looked at as a security threat.

My life is good, for the most part, and I can take no credit. God has allowed me to be able to live with great humanity in prison. He has bestowed gifts upon me which credit me with the ability to serve Him and His flock. If the jailer needs to restrict my service by barring my role in the Sacrament of the Eucharist they will not have to answer to me but to God. This does not mean that I will not tell their story, detail their madness, but as they shake their fist in the face of God I will rejoice with the knowledge of all He has done for this sinner. His word revealed through His Son has afforded me a freedom never before known. I am a Eucharistic Minister and no concrete, bars, razor wire or badge can take that away! It will mean all the more to me the next time I say;

"This is the body of Christ."