

## THE GOOD

When I came here to the prison I worked with some of my long time friends to form the first Parish Council for the Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Community. One of the first things we did was initiate a "Rite of Christian Intiation in Adults" (RCIA) program here so thst men who wanted to be Baptised and/or Confirmed into the Catholic Church could. We just started out third offering of the program and there was an over-whelming attendence. Six men here, with two other possibles, want to become members of the Church! It is awesome and the RCIA program is a great success. We have seminarians from Blessed St. John XXIII National Seminary as teachers, as well as local community members and our Deacon. Men in the community, true believers, also help with the program and share with the new men how their faith has helped them to rehabilitate. This prisoenr initiative was truly inspired and I am happy to report that it is a success and that I am able to be part of it. Jesus said, "When I was in prison you visited me.", and so many have followed His model and come in here to visit us.

Growing up in Gloucester we had quite a few artistic souls. One of the most famous was certainly poet laureate Vincent Ferrini. Being an East Gloucester kid I remember him well. His son is quite famous in Gloucester artistic circles and a few years back he produced an award winning movie titled "Polis Is This". It is a documentary life story of another very famous Gloucester poet: Charles Olsen. Vincent's son Henry is the Director of the Gloucester Writers Center. I sent him some stories about the Gloucester of my youth. He wrote me back and let me know he enjoyed the stories. He also sent me the information about the Charle's Olsen documentary he produced. I asked Henry if it would be possible for him to donate a copy of the movie to the prison here and gave him the address of Deputy Denied-Oh. Well wouldn't ys know that Henry was gracious enough to donate the movie, Denied-Oh watched it and actually approved it, and it was given to me by the powers that be for a pre-screening before it is shown to the general population. I was so happy and so shocked that the powers that be here would let it happen. It is a wonderful movie and I so enjoyed watching my beloved Gloucester scenes on the screen while listening to the beautiful words of Charles Olsen: very pleasurable. The film has cameos by John Malkovich, Pete Seeger, and Vincent Ferrini and others. Thank you so much Henry Ferrini!

For the three years that I have been here at the prison Blessed John XXIII National Seminary has sent two (2) seminarians here each year to do prison ministry. I have bonded such close relationships with Marwan, John, Ken, John, Aiden, and Steve: it has been a true blessing for me to be exposed to these men of faith. Our community has embraced them and one man, Marwan, said he was thinking of leaving the seminary until he came here and met us! He said we reaffirmed his faith and he is now Father Ephraim - a blessed Catholic Priest. One of our other dear brothers,

John, was sharing with us how the seminarian felt he needed another year of the deaconate before becoming a Priest. John was depressed as he felt, as did we, that he was ready. We told him that we would pray for him. He returned to his home in St. Thomas for the summer break and the Bishop of that Diocese greeted him warmly. His Bishop felt the seminary was in error and I am very happy to report that he is now Father John! A blessed Cathloic Priest! Our paryers were answered: again! It is such a privilege to have these fine men in our lives here. They see us for who we really are in this community: sinners who have been found after being lost. They are our hope, our truth barometer. We love them.

## THE BAD

Deputy Denied-Oh has a man with full blown MRSA (a serious and very contagious staff infection - resistant to antibiotics) isolated up in the "sniff" death chamber on IV medication. The problem is that the guards let this man has access to the same phone, computer, dayroom, and desk and chairs as the patients up there with suppressed immune systems. They are following NONE of the MRSA spread prevention guidelines and when the guards were asked about it they just laughed. It won't be too funny when they bring MRSA home to their families and then have to go to an outside hospital for treatment where they might expose YOU to MRSA. They take these things unbelievably lightly in here: the safety in the "sniff" is a full and total joke. They guards, and too many of the nurses, view the patients up there as less than human. And these patients are, for the most part, old and infirm men who cannot fight back against neglect or abuse: they are the perfect target for these correctional cowards. You have Lt. Urine up there making jokes about men with dementia: she is the one with the real brain failure. I'm sure when she gets MRSA (hopefully in a very uncomfortable spot) from up there that she will sue or have the union seek damages. The MRSA in the "sniff" will be at your local hospital in the near future.

The guards here beat Mike R. so bad that his jaw was broken and had to be wired. They hid him away in an isolation cell here at the facility and denied him access to the phone and the mail for a while. he sent a message out to me for help and I have forwarded it to a lawyer who I hope can help him. Mike tried to file the proper documents but was put off and denied access to the paperwork. He requested the camera footage that shows his unlawful beating but was denied. He sits up there in the "sniff" at the mercy of those who already beat him within an inch of his life. This is who the guards are: cowards. They come at men 20 at a time after creating the situation. They get a mob mentality and many feel they can beat a helpless and handcuffed man with impunity: and for the most oart they are correct. I do my best to expose any such beatings but getting help is near impossible. The so called "prison advocate lawyers"

like L. Walkerbutnotalker, do nothing for men who reach out in desperation: even though it is their job. Your prison guards are creating angry young men of whom 97% will be released to your cities and towns. Mike R. has a broken jaw and the guard who broke it gets assigned to "care" for him??? It is an insane world in here.

Deputy Denied-Oh's "long-Termers Group" is falling apart even faster than I had anticipated. She had so many lifers and long-termers here who were clamoring for a group to address lifer/long-termers issues that she knew she had to do something. She took a few truly Stockholmed Syndromed "inmates" (not prisoners) and put them at the helm of a truly toothless endeavor. A few men, who realize that their right to be rehabilitated is being violated, have spoken up at the meetings and called the brainwashed inmates out. It is going nowhere and Deputy Denied-Oh sits back and grins as she knows that the in-fighting is exactly the divide and conquer plan she had in mind all along. Keep the men arguing amongst themselves and they will not be able to expose her malfeasance and the public safety nightmare that is ShirleyWorld. It's a good thing that men here have joined outside groups, namely CURE-ARM & Bread & Water, and are working day in and day out to expose the Denied-Ohs and reveal the rights violations that are diminishing public safety. It has always been a handful of men that have brought about the actions that changed the world. We must at the very least attempt to improve our world. We must fight the power. We must stay true to our mission. Support CURE-ARM and Bread & Water!

More To Come...