

TAKIN' THE GOOD WITH THE BAD
"Change In Spite of Oppression"
Chapter VII

Another milestone here in the Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Community (one of the only places where a ShirleyWorld prisoner can escape the madness which permeates this joint). We have received confirmation from Charlotte & Roger, of Central Mass. Pax Christi, that we will indeed be starting the first ever prison chapter of Pax Christi here at the prison! Unbelievable!! Another story of success in how the Holy Spirit has guided the Outreach Committee here in connecting with the community. We as prisoners have the constitutional right, and a vested liberty interest here in Massachusetts, to be able to work with community members toward real and meaningful rehabilitation. The Pax Christi group will be a most powerful vehicle toward that end. As has been reported here previously the Outreach Committee was also able to connect with the International Thomas Merton Society and with the great help of Jack C., were able to start the first ever prison chapter of the ITMS! Now we have done it again with the first ever Pax Christi chapter. Thank you so much Charlotte and Roger (and Sue M.), as well as kudos to the Artful Dodger for all of his follow-ups (with much "cattle prodding" from the Parish Council).

I can't say enough about what is going on in the Church here. I am so proud that the successes the Holy Spirit has blessed us with are taking up much of this chapter. Again the Outreach Committee (the source of one of my greatest personal joys) has found a gem out there for our Church. In the very near future we will be hosting an "Our Lady of Lourdes" retreat, where organizers will bring in actual stones from the Lourdes, France Grotto, as well as Holy Water from the Lourdes fountain, and we will engage in a 90 minute "pilgrimage" which the Pope has confirmed to be considered the same as traveling to Lourdes ourselves! That is truly unbelievable!! The Pope has declared that anyone who takes part in this "pilgrimage" will be blessed with the same indulgences as if they visited the blessed site of Our Lady's appearance in Lourde, France! As reported here previously many of us in the Catholic Community (myself included) took the "33 Days to Morning Glory" retreat where we became consecrated to the Blessed Virgin. It is no coincidence that so many Blessed Virgin related "happenings" are being visited upon this "Our Lady of Guadalupe" Catholic Community. This Lourdes retreat will be one of the biggest events to happen in any Massachusetts prison. Thank you Holy Spirit for allowing us to afford the faithful men here an escape from the madness that is the ShirleyWorld gulag!

I was over in the library and heard a group of prisoners say, "Did you see all the new sports books the deputy (Denied-Oh) got for the library?" They had a few new hardcover Red Sox books on the table. Well I made certain to go over and let them know where the 8 cases of barely used sports books came from: they came from ESPN Boston sportswriter Gordon E., who this community has hosted twice in our blessed Chapel. Gordon loves us so much that he sent these 8 cases of books directly from his personal library at his home. The Artful Dodger (again with cattle prodding from the Parish Council) arranged to have the "Denied-Oh Administration" "Approve" the books (as God knows they may have presented some type of threat to the security of the institution!) and after a couple of week process (as we all

know thngs move very slowly at ShirleyWorld as most employees get paid by the hour - some, like Denied-Oh also get paid in blood) the books made it to the library. The books are very expensive hardcover issues and as sports is a big topic in prison they made a great splash here in the library. Reading is a great rehabilitational tool and I hope to report in the future about a "Learning To Read" program that some of my close associates are proposing. Thank you so much Gordon E. for your very generous gift! I would never let Deputy Denied-Oh (or any other gulag jackboot) take credit for your gift of hope and faith. God Bless You!!!

THE BAD

I have been reporting for years about Frank S. With each passing week his medical conditions get worse and he is "shuffled" around from outside hospital to ADL ward, to "sniff" bed, and so on and so forth; all while agonizing in pain. Each and every week he asks to see me, and each and every week we are not allowed to meet: even though I am his Power of Attorney and Health Care Proxy. Frank lays in bed, unable to get in or out on his own, unable to use the bathroom or even hold an ink pen, and when he gets real bad they call the ambulance (from an independent service paid for by you at TOP DOLLAR) and ship him off to the Shattuck Hospital (with two guards riding along being paid overtime) for a quick "tune up" and then back to Deputy Denied-Oh's "sniff" where he can languish in a feces filled adult diaper until he gets a skin eroding rash. If you knew how much it was costing you to keep Frank locked up, when he no longer poses ANY threat to society - he cannot hold a pen!, as juxtaposed to what it would cost in managed care - WITHOUT THE ENORMOUS ADDED SECURITY COSTS - you would be outraged and calling for his releases. He has 41 years in on a "Parole Eligible" life sentence: he is an old man waiting to die and you are being bilked by the state for the high costs of his care serving no public safety purpose. To express your outrage please contact State Senator Patricia Jehlen at: (617) 722-1578. Ask about Senate Bill No.-1139 for the Medical Release of prisoners.

I am aghast that a former "refromer" on criminal justice, State representative Kay Khan, seems to have joined the "Dark Side" (maybe she has spent too much time talking to the "stupid on crime" republican Bruce Tarr - who's "tough/stupid on crime" measures have allowed heroin and opiate addiction to flourish in our hometown of Gloucester for decades now). She has offered a measure - House Bill No.-1434 - which calls for the construction of another prison in Middlesex County to house female prisoners who cannot afford bail pre-trial. I've got to tell you Ms. Khan building more prisons is NEVER the answer! These women who cannot afford bail are the poor, the abused, the under-paid, the fully unserved aspect of our society which for years you professed to support. We as prisoners used to hear from you but it has been years upon years since you took those tough stands you used to be known for. Now it has gone so far south that

you feel it is OK to propose a new gulag, not just any gulag, but a gulag for women! Outrageous. I am so happy to report that Lois A. at the Real Cost of Prisons Project is behind a push to block your insane measure. CURE-ARM and Braed & Water are backing Lois on this push and we will all be working to get the message out there. The deaf, dumb, and blind approach which your cohorts like Senator Bruce Tarr use, has resulted in our communities being decimated by drug addiction and youth violence. Obviously "more law enforcement" and "more prisons" is not the answer. Newton (your turf) could be the next Gloucsster (Mr. Tarr's turf) with huge addiction, overdose, and HIV rates due to measures which call for more money to be thrown at the law enforcement industrial complex rather at the treatment and social services end of the ver increasing, and costly, problem. Ms. Khan come back to your senses. Come back into the prisons and hear what is working and what is not. Tell Bruce Tarr that the rhetoric and stupid on crime philosophy has run its course. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results and that is what Mr. Tarr and his republican minority have done for far too long at the peril of the families in the Cape Ann area.

It is time to continue to "beat a dead mule" in the form of State Senator Bruce Tarr. His foolish and morally bankrupt rheotoric on the recent Supreme Judicial Court decisions in Diatchenko v. District Attorney and Co., v. Brown, dealing with the fact that life without parole sentences for offenders convicted as juveniles are unconstitutional, are a throwback to a time where minorities were lynched in the public square for whistling at a white woman. Mr. Tarr, who's tough/stupid on crime "jobs program" (and vote earning vehicle) has ravaged his hometown with drug addiction and overdoses, thinks that having these juvenile offenders serve a minimum of 35 years (how can he throw out such a number so cavalierly? It screams of anger and hatred) before being eligible for parole is just and fair. Maybe he should read up on the laws of the Massachusetts Bay Colony (1648) and John Adam's chapter 5 of the Massachusetts Constitution (1778), from which how we treat citizens in the "redemptive" criminal justice system, as well as from where his job/position/public servant post, are concerned. The rights of the victims are not forfeited when justice and redemption are afforded to the convicted. The balance is a protection of all of society a sthe hatred that comes from these Tarr like philosophies is what drove our youth to kill in the first place. The United States Supreme Court, in Miller v. Alabama, ruled that you cannot throw these youthful offenders away and that their almost certain ability to be rehabilitated affords them a "liberty interest" toward a meaningful opportunity for release, and that such draconian sentences such as LWOP parole or Mr. Tarr's 35 year minimum are "cruel and unusual" as it applies to these kids. That is the law of the land and Mr. Tarr must abandon his foolish campaign of rhetoric, so cleverly couched as a "victims rights" campaign, and make that progressive change that our society demands and have been long overdue. Bruce Tarr has never spoken to a juvenile serving life without parole. He operates from a platform of ignorance. Bruce Tarr needs to visit the graves of the overdose victims, along with the families, in Gloucester that

his "stupid on crime" rhetoric is responsible for. Let's not drop the ball again Bruce. Let's work to stop the violence not pile on cruel and unusual punishments to kids who you failed to serve in the first place. Where were you when these offenders were born addicted to drug using mothers? Where were you when they were shuffled around from foster home to foster home? You only show up on the scene when it is time to further abuse these children who were so underserved by society in the first place. You want to have child offenders languish in adult prisons for 35 years as some means to serve victims? You discount the brain science that shows that these kids, many of whom had underlying psychological issues to boot, were not fully culpable for their own actions? You seek more cops, harsher sentences, more prisons, and all the screaming rhetoric measures which have been proven to diminish public safety, not enhance it, while failing to meet with the mothers and fathers of the offenders who have seen their children survive an adult prison system which you helped to make one of hatred and abuse rather than of healing and redemption. Shame on you Bruce Tarr you shameless self-promoter and hate monger.

Other "Hot Topic" Points:

- Lt. Urine = Rare as a Texas Democrat as of late!
- Shameless Peckerwood = Dumb as ever and more of a fool!
- Deputy Denied-Oh = "working" with the long-termers group
(are you shittin' me)
- Rehabilitation = Non-existent at ShirleyWorld!

More To Come...