

TAKIN' THE GOOD WITH THE BAD
"Change In Spite Of Oppression"
Chapter XIV

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THE GOOD

What a successful Walk For Hunger we had! About 135 men walked between the medium (ShirleyWorld) and the minimum (ShirleyWorld-Light) walking for well over 1000 miles! As of this writing we have raised in excess of \$1,500.00 and more is expected!! Mike S. pushed Joe L. in his wheelchair (accompanied by Frank Q.) for a 26.2 mile marathon! Several men jogged the twenty miles and quite a few walkers walked between 15 and 20 miles. The weather was windy and brisk but for the most part the rain held off, all but a few sprinkles. The Service Team had a great time working the table, issuing stickers, tracking miles and passing out cold ice water. The Artful Dodger sat with us and even provided some hard candy for us to pass the time with. You could not ask for a better running event here at the facility. Planned, organized, and facilitated by prisoners! The sad story here is, especially at ShirleyWorld, that the administration does not support more of these efforts (prisoner planned efforts and events) which would undoubtedly build self-esteem and reduce recidivism. When men here are offered the opportunity to do good they jump at it, especially when that opportunity is presented by other prisoners that they trust. Men would not "step up" like they did here for a Deputy Denied-Oh run event: they just don't trust or respect her. I wish they would see the value in our efforts rather than distrust them. Recidivism would be vastly reduced if the gulag officials really allowed us to help ourselves.

I was invited by a group of prisoners to come and "teach" them about activism and reform philosophy. I must say I was humbled at the invitation and had to start off by telling these men that I was not there to "teach" but to just "share" knowledge. I gave them a little history about the right to rehabilitation in Massachusetts and then went on to talk of organizing strategy. I showed them some of the powerful work we were doing here as well as some of the impressive results of that work. This group of men, men who want to really make a difference in their world, were very receptive. I felt as if I impacted their viewpoint on some very important aspects of the struggle and it was my honor to help them in any way I could. We are all in this "struggle" together and I feel this meeting went a long way to send that message. My hopes will be to meet with other groups and give the presentation.

A wonderful freind of our community here, Kathy, came into the prison to report that a true miracle had taken place here at our last Residents Encounter Christ program and she had to come in and share it with us. At the REC a very spiritual person, Joyful Judy, had a vision while looking at one of our tapestries. It was Kathy's baby daughter who had died 41 years earlier of sudden infant death syndrome. Kathy had been carrying the guilt of this death all this time, and it caused her so much grief in her life. Well in Judy's vision Kathy's daughter let Kathy know that she loved her mother, and that there should be absolutely no guilt as God had called her to His Home for a reason. Kathy was so full of

emotion when Judy told her of this vivid vision that she could not fully process it. After she calmed down, and when she had a real chance to discern the information in prayer, she knew it truly was her daughter speaking to her. Dates and durations proved it out: Kathy knew the vision was real and that the message was clear; there was not need to carry guilt anymore. Her daughter was with God in heaven and God had called her there for a purpose. Kathy was freed of her decades long guilt and she believes that God spoke to her, through channels, and that this blessed Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Community played a very large role in this miracle. I'm a believer as I know the healing power of our Community. It is the spirituality of the men and women here that makes it such fertile ground for the Holy Spirit! The Artful Dodger should be so grateful that the community has turned into such a powerful spiritual battlefield as it was not this way for some 15 years! God is good! All the time!!

Kathy went on to March last week with Cardinal Sean against the "Black Mass" that was scheduled to be held at Harvard. As we know they were successful in backing Harvard off! Kathy and her daughter's spirit marched against satan. What could possibly be more important than that? God bless you Kathy and God bless your daughter!

THE BAD

The guard's union has voted in a whole new slew of fools to represent them as union officials. One of them CO Shady-Tree (I call him Shady-Tree as all he used to do was slump down behind the podium here and nap when he worked at ShirleyWorld. He got in a good five (5) hours "nap pay" when he worked the units) was roaming about the facility stirring up trouble amongst the oxygen wasters as well as making numerous promises to them that he knew he could never keep. How they can elect a full-blown alcoholic like CO ShadyTree to a full time union position says a lot about who the guys really are. They accept alcoholism as "part of the job". They laugh when someone comes into work drunk as a skunk and weaves their way along the tier while doing the count. When my friend Billy B., was beaten by a drunken con the guard that was working my block was the drunkest one in the prison that night. He was literally falling down drunk, slurring his speech in an unrecognizable manner, and was asleep at the wheel when a 39 year old man beat a 72 year old man 20 feet from his post. I'll bet he may get elected to the union next. You should see how redfaced this CO ShadyTree is. It is almost like some cartoon or over-the-top caricature. It is like he feel asleep in the Mexican sun but instead of sunburn his fire-red glow is "booze-burn"! This whiskey breathed fool is going to be the "shot-caller" here at ShirleyWorld. He is going to develop the plan for guards to "stay home" and still get paid. He is going to propose how to suck with more fervor off of the state's (taxpayer) teet! Belly up to the bar and join Union Rep. ShadyTree on the road to destruction!

THE BAD (Cont.)

When the cats away (in this instance the "cat" being the Boot and Deputy Denied-Oh) the rats will play, and in this instance the "rat" I speak of is Sgt. Bitch. For some unknown reason of skewed correctional logic on Saturdays here at ShirleyWorld Sgt. Bitch is assigned as the "operations" sergeant. This mean he gets to call the units to the chow-hall and while he does it he stands in the chowhall window and peers down the walkway, a walkway littered with men with canes and in wheel-chairs, and looks to see who he can mess with. If you are walking slow and talking to a friend he has you strip - searched. He has so many men strip-searched on Saturday that even his own officers, who must walk these poor prisoners over to booking and look at them naked, think that he is demented. They call him "miserable" and "lazy" behind his back and even this new breed of guard laughs at how much of an idiot he is. His campaign of "strip-search revenge" is indicative of a much deeper mental illness. He knows he is a failure in all things worthwhile in life. He has let his family down and his abuse has caused them misery. He has losy all of his friends as they see him as an emotional vampire. His health is failing due to the venom he has spewed; karma is slowly paying him a long overdue visit. As his pants get looser and shirts become more baggy, body wasting away in the pool of bile, his capacity for joy dissolves and his thirst for revenge and malicious vengence excells. As the reaper sharpens the scicle with "Bitch" written on it he calls for the stripping of men on the walkway. The fact that Christ, in His infinite mercy, would help him out of this path to destruction is fully lost on this depleted shell of a man. Pray for Sgt. Bitch; God knows he needs it!

Please know that I am still pounding the DOC on the "legal" front. Some great victories as of late but I cannot reveal more as of this date: don't want to tip my hand.

More To Come...