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# CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Diocese of Palm Beach, Inc.

## PRISON MINISTRY

*providing help • creating hope*

Office (561) 360-3326  
9/30/20

Dear Prison Ministers,

On September 10, 2001 I attended my first class in preparation to become a deacon. The next day, of course, became the infamous "9/11." Sometimes it feels like the forces of evil are winning battles, but on Easter Sunday we know, year after year, that the devil lost the war!

Whether a person is arrested rightly, or wrongly, the impression that "I am now this person", feels indelible. Forgiveness becomes elusive. That is, until one of us comes along to give the unforgiving person, a chance to change. To believe in something outside of oneself. We have always brought healing when we show up for people who are distressed from lack of forgiveness. It may only take one encounter with an inmate, or several. Still, to hear God's Word is imperative for the imprisoned to understand, that Jesus Himself was arrested. St. Paul was arrested. Our first Pope was arrested. All of them knew that the war between Good and Evil had been won, and for those who believe that Jesus is God in the flesh, peace returns to them. Catholic Christian resources, such as the Bible, Mother Church, the Communion of Saints, the Sacraments, and People of Faith would become an impregnable force for goodness and truth. Over the centuries, evil momentarily prevails, like in the death of an individual who is being arrested, or in another example of an arrest in progress, where a person is unintentionally shot and killed, from a gun fired through a wall several times. In each case, the devil's tools of deception, to pry one from performing goodness and truth, deteriorated the situation into ugliness and fear, on both sides of the law.

As prison ministers, by the time we arrive on scene to greet the accused, or the convicted, we become the personification of hope. If our audience accepts us, then they discover the depths of God's Love for them. A Father who is perfect. A Mother who is perfect. And now a Catholic Christian Sister or Brother who, like the inmate is not perfect, but willing to introduce the imprisoned to an opportunity, to exchange their sorrow, in pursuit of happiness.

The pandemic that was scientifically manufactured is the work of the devil. The fear it has caused among the peoples of the world is exponential, that is, until they understand, that People of Faith only fear God. Any other fear, again, is the work of Satan. The Corporal Works of Mercy are interrupted when we give in to fear. We can overcome this when we return to the Spirit working through us to achieve goodness.

When your facility opens, my office will notify you. I ask you to return to the ministry. Learn that each time you return home safely, as a consequence, it will reduce the fears of your family members, who while never partaking in the ministry, will always wonder why, we do it.

Count on the jails to open last. The F.D.O.C. chaplains, are saying late October, for our ability to return. Consider, emailing me positive stories, from your time in the ministry. We have a new Facebook page: @ccpbprisonministry, we would like to share them and continue to grow.



*YOURS IN CHRIST*  
*Rev. Greg*

[www.catholiccharitiesdpb.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdpb.org)

