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# CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Diocese of Palm Beach, Inc.

## PRISON MINISTRY

*providing help • creating hope*

Office (561) 360-3326

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas Prison Ministers!

So many presents have already come to us since our last quarterly communique and to think that the best is yet to come. It was a joyful time to be with you, when on October 25th Catholic Charities arranged the Mass with Bishop Barbarito presiding and a luncheon to follow. It is always good to break bread with friends and honor what we do for the Glory of Christ.

It is refreshing that we are making strides in establishing a greater influence in places like the Indian River County Jail, where three years ago the chaplain said that our volunteers were too old and therefore unable to communicate with the population. DONKEY DUST! Our perseverance, which mainly comes from our fellow prison ministers at St. Helen's in Vero Beach, not only has expanded their cell to cell visits in the jail infirmary, but Rev. Pierre-Soul Estefont has welcomed Jesus back into the facility by having Mass. By the way, we have 90 year olds serving in our ministry. As you know many Christian denominations cherish having "Church Elders." Inmates especially respect and love their commitment to the ministry.

The Palm Beach Regional Juvenile Detention Center has a thriving garden, thanks to one of our prisoner ministers Janine Lines, who has been working with the residents and teaching them skills that they might never have known. Next month we will add a basic cooking class to our ministry activities on 45<sup>th</sup> Street in West Palm Beach, when one of our benefactors becomes an instructor. He has been to France six times to attend cooking classes and looks forward to helping the children.

The Palm Beach Sheriff's Office finally hired a Certified Chaplain to manage their Chaplaincy Department. The Ministry Advisory Board and I pushed hard to have someone fill the Senior Chaplain position who has completed 1,200 hours of visiting patients and 400 hours in classroom education to learn about other religions and traditions. As Chair of the Advisory Board I have arranged for the PBSO to pay for ten sessions to have motivational speaker Coach Mike Jarvis, from South Florida Bible College and Theological Seminary to lead men closer to God. In the West



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Detention Center on December 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a female inmate, who has been in confinement for 15 months, coming into full communion with the Catholic Church. Earlier in that same day our volunteers will pass out 600 presents to the population.

Imagine, the only people visiting the Treasure Coast Forensic Treatment Center in Indiantown bringing any spiritual guidance are prison ministers of the Catholic Church. Services are provided every week by either Deacon Frank Bandy, Rev. Sean Mulcahy, Rodolfo Forjan, and Alfredo Moro. In fact, they were able to rally 17 members of the choir at St. Paul of the Cross, North Palm Beach to sing Christmas carols before, during and after the Mass presided by Fr. Sean on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Rev. John Horn, S.J. and Dcn. Don Battiston will be celebrating The Mass at the Martin Correctional Institution on Christmas Day. Dcn. Don and his wife Pam will keep up their tradition to provide presents to the children who visit the prison that day as well. Taking a page from their playbook, I will be with my wife (Patty), Phil and Mary Gazzo, and Charlie and Diana Immordino doing the same at Okeechobee Correctional Institution on the Birthday of Our Lord.

There is so much more to report, but I prefer to celebrate with you at the Catholic Charities Gala on January 23, 2019. It is a great event at the Breaker's Hotel. Please let me know if you can join us?

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dcn. Gregory C. Quinn, M.A.  
Director of Prison Ministry