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CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Diocese of Palm Beach, Inc.

PRISON MINISTRY

providing help • creating hope

Office (561) 360-3326

Greetings Prison Ministers!

Before I discuss our accomplishments in the first quarter (July – Sept.), I hope that you are planning to go to the Volunteer Appreciation Mass and Luncheon on Thursday Oct. 25th? The check in is 10:45am at the Cathedral of St. Ignatius of Loyola. The Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito, Bishop of Palm Beach will be the Celebrant! Please RSVP to Vinessa Morgan VMorgan@ccdpb.org before October 18th.

In fact, Vinessa started with the Office of Prison Ministry on July 1st. Many of you have already told me, how much of a positive difference Vinessa has contributed to our efforts to obtain supplies for our ministries, communicating with us and preparing new applications and renewals apps., that only require our signatures. The objective remains to make your access into the facilities as painless as possible. Most of all, now you have two people dedicated to prison ministry for you to contact when you are incurring problems with corrections officers or whatever impedes your ministry.

How ironic is this? Last Sunday evening I shook hands with Archbishop Wenski in Miami. He asked me what I did in our diocese. I informed him, in part, that I lead six seminarians into Martin Correctional Institution in Indiantown and another six seminarians each week into the Palm Beach Regional Juvenile Detention Center in West Palm Beach. He replied, "That's on 45th street. Fifty years ago, when I was a seminarian, that's where I went." Maybe not ironic, but the Holy Spirit reminding us of the value we bring being recognized by the top leadership in the State of Florida in the Catholic Church.

We are also blessed to have four more priests join our ranks in the last quarter. Rev. Remigiusz Blaszkowski, Vice Rector at the St. Vincent de Paul Seminary will be going into the Main Detention Center in West Palm Beach. Rev. Pierre Soul-Estefont is hearing confessions and celebrating Mass in the Indian River County Jail. Rev. Matthew DeGance, SDB is going into the West Detention Center. And Rev. Gabriel Ghanoum will be going into both the West Detention Center and the Main Detention Center in Palm Beach County.

My mom, God rest her soul, she passed on last year at the age of 94. She always said to my siblings and me, "Self-praise stinks." I hope you do not see me as a braggart, but I was elected unanimously to be the Chairperson of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Corrections Ministry Advisory Board. My reason to accept the position? To compel positive change in what is the worst level of cooperation from any of the five county jails that we serve in the diocese. I will bring this to fruition, not because I will it to be so, no that's called Pelagianism. Like you, I yield to the will of the Holy Spirit to help provide the untold bounty for the least of our brethren. Your participation in prison ministry for Catholic Charities is invaluable. Thank you!

In Christ,



www.catholiccharitiesdpb.org

