

Restorative Justice “zinger”

Each day, offenders complete their time of punishment, leave prison and come back into our midst. Restorative Justice calls us to support and encourage these released offenders as they strive to find a new path. It calls us to watch for our prodigal sons, give them another chance.



We all have our eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth moments, temptations to think, he made his bed, let him lie in it! Yet, in our nobler moments we remember how Jesus said we must forgive sinners and how he empathized with human weakness. Jesus saw the potential in people and unbound them: “Go and sin no more.” We are called to scan the horizon in compassion like the Father in the story of the Prodigal Son.

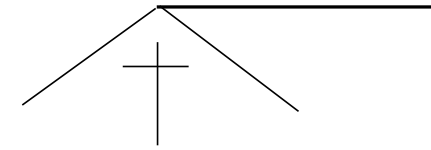
Offenders are frightened when the day comes for them to leave prison. They have resolved to make changes that will be hard, to mend bridges. When the going gets rough when they are lonely, when former

associates and old familiar ways beckon, the way becomes slippery.

There are many obstacles to making a new start. What to answer when a prospective employer says, “Where were you last employed?” AND when a prospective landlord hesitates to accept your deposit and first month’s rent, asking for references from past landlords. What to do next? These men desperately need somewhere to turn, if they are to make it.

St. Ignatius Parish has a long history of ministering to offenders. There has been a parish presence at Saturday night Eucharist at Stony Mountain for many years. Let’s make that support ongoing. When the men we visit are granted parole, let’s be there to give them our encouragement and a helping hand as they make those first faltering steps back into our midst.

*Contributed by
Carol Peloquin, snjm*



MICAH HOUSE

ACT JUSTLY + LOVE TENDERLY +
WALK HUMBLLY WITH YOUR GOD

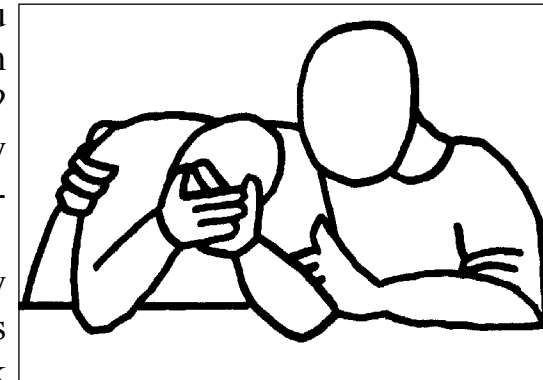
UPDATE

February, 2010

The Journey of Lent

What do you think of when you think of Lent? Can we make truly make it a time of conversion?

As we journey through these 40 days let us accept to walk



What will the challenge of the journey resemble? How might our minds and hearts be transformed in prayer so that we might be instruments of peace and justice? How might we offer concrete support to a parent,

with those in our world, our community and our family who suffer pain or grief. Let compassion be our guide, as we become more aware of how we can bring justice and peace to their suffering.

“The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these too are the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the followers of Christ.”

(Documents of Vatican II, Church in the Modern World)

sibling, spouse, or to someone in need of life’s basic necessities? How might our celebration of the Eucharist convict us in the words of St. Augustine? “Go and become what you have received.”

May our God, who gave us all in His Son, Jesus, inspire us and grant us the strength to be agents of peace and justice.

*United in Christ,
The staff at Micah House*

Just Faith Closing Retreat at Blessed John XXIII

On Saturday, January 9th, nine people gathered to pray and discern their Just Faith Journey.

After quiet time, each person articulated how God and people had touched their heart and how he/she was a part of the Body of Christ. Eva discovered her talent in producing photo stories which reflect on the lives of people at the House of Hessed, and Our Place/ Chez Nous.

The images and scripture passages presented powerful invitations to all of us to care for our brothers and sisters. Several others wanted



to integrate the message of justice and compassion into the mysteries of the Rosary which is recited regularly at John XXIII.

Everyone enjoyed preparing breakfast for the youth at Rossbrook House and marveled at the sense of community and gratitude the youngsters exhibited.

None took too much bacon because they wanted to make sure there was enough for everyone.

Participation in the “Hear-

ing Voices” workshop at 4 Fort Street, most affected the participants. Imagine being asked to fill in forms, follow directions, engage in conversations and generally function all the while hearing voices in their heads telling them “You’re no good, you’re stupid.” This is the fate suffered by many people with a mental illness.

Participants agreed that this was a wonderful adult education program.

It would be great for other parishioners to participate as well.

Welcome to The Welcome Home

When I say that I live and work at The Welcome Home, people often ask, “What is it?” The simple answer is that The Welcome Home is a community of Redemptorists and lay people ministering to the poor in the North Point Douglas neighbourhood of Winnipeg.

This year, we are a community of five people, Father Mike Smolinski, Father Len Ratushniak, Eumir Bautista, me, and our newest member, Nataliya Wozniak, recently arrived from Ukraine.

The other frequently-asked question is “What do you do there?” Again, we can answer by talking about our programs and ministries, the “Kids are Creative” arts program, our weekly Family Night, the piano lessons for neighborhood kids, the Girls’ Club and the new Boys’ Club.

The real truth of what The Welcome Home is all about can be found in the ordinary moments that happen in between these and our other scheduled activities.

The Fathers are brought into the lives of our people



as they share their stories during van-rides home. We become part of kids’ lives in bandaging scraped knees and drying their tears. We pray for each other, for help in hard times and in thanksgiving in happy times. We sit together and serve one another during each Thursday night meal.

One of my most precious memories from my time at The Welcome Home is sending a pack of young girls out the door after a relaxed Girls’ Club spent jumping rope in the evening sunshine as passersby smiled at us. Our number had grown over the course of the evening, as some neighbourhood girls had been invited into the game by the sound of their friends chanting familiar skipping rhymes.

The girls were heading out to call on another school friend, and it occurred to me that the beauty of our time together was not that I had welcomed them into my home, but that they had welcomed me.

Contributed by
Sarah Hanna

At Marymound, finding the good is a way of life

Located in Winnipeg and Thompson, Manitoba, we work with 1200 youth, children and families annually, supporting them as they face the challenges of growing, learning and parenting.

Anchored in the values of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Marymound believes in the intrinsic worth of every person. Our programs respect, nurture and enhance the strength in every individual and family.

We truly believe that every young person who walks through our doors has goodness in them. While it may be hard for some young people to see the good in themselves, our belief that it exists motivates our work.

One example of this is our Independent Options/

‘We truly believe that every young person who walks through our doors has goodness in them.’

Young Parents Program that provides guidance and assistance to young people who have lived in care and have reached the age of majority. Now out on their own, they are faced with finding a place to live, grocery shopping and cooking, finding a job or going to school, house-keeping, budgeting and

more. Marymound case workers provide individual support to these young people.

The program also works with young parents, offering support and hands-on assistance in looking after a baby—bathing, feeding, finding child care, nutrition, budgeting, school registration or finding employment.

Through these programs and others, Marymound assists and invests in a better future for Manitoba young people.

www.marymound.com

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