

Part VI

Chapter 46

What Do We Hope to Accomplish With a Website?

The book “You Visited Me” will be given to prisoners in the United States free of charge as much as possible. After the book is printed, nothing can be added to it. On the website, we can continue to add thoughts and devotions and other helps for prisoners families, ex-cons, parolees, victims of crime and others to overcome the evil effects of crime in their lives.

We hope to be able to embed sound on our website. With sound, we can help people more effectively, by praying with them the Rosary, the Angelus, and the Way of the Cross.

We want very much to be able to read the book on the website to help members of prisoners families, ex-convicts and other interested persons with impaired vision. We must also remember and be concerned about many people who are functionally illiterate who would benefit from what we have written on the website if they could hear it read. If this is too difficult or too costly, we may produce an inexpensive CD with this book being read by Fr. Paulsen.

It will be beneficial for **videos** to be made for the website in which I interview ex-convicts who have committed different types of crimes. Especially with regard to what they were subjected to in prison from insensitivity, rape and brutality from other inmates and gangs. Their experiences with parole, courts and lawyers could also be revealed. Possibly this could lead to interviews with judges and lawyers and members of the parole board.

Videos could be edited so that ex-convicts voices and faces were disguised **so that their anonymity would be protected**. These interviews could also be recorded on CDs to be broadcast on radio.

Some ex-convicts could tell how they have had a wake-up experience in prison and why they are most fervent believers in the Catholic faith. Living in that faith gives them a certain hope that they have found the only way to lasting peace and happiness in this troubled world.

It would be especially edifying to everyone, and may help to rectify the injustices committed against inmates in prison if they were interviewed relating to the type of crimes they committed and what led them to become involved in criminal activities; for example, sex offenders(rapists and child molesters), drug addicts and dealers, muggers, thieves, bank robbers, gangsters involved in extortion, protection, prostitution, drug dealing, etc.. The crimes committed in prison. Gang recruiters and the tactics they employ to recruit gang members in prison.

If we could ever talk to ex-convicts about the different types of prison cells and discuss the various situations in which prisoners must do their time, some changes for the better could come .We could allow ex-convicts to tell about what happens to them living in these cells in population, and in solitary confinement.

We could also allow wardens and guards to explain why prisons and cells are constructed

in the way they are, chow halls, gymnasiums, chapels, etc.

If I could interview some dedicated volunteers who work with me in the prisons-- Wilbur Barnett, Bill Pinola, Tom Cussen, Charlie Hoffman-, we might be able to edify, encourage, and even inspire other good Catholic people to dedicate themselves to this wonderful work which is so rewarding and so dear to the hearts of our volunteers and to Jesus Christ(Matthew 25:39).

I could also tell how and why I became involved in prison ministry while still a pastor at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Palestine, Texas. Why I feel honored and privileged to have been called to work in the prisons as a Catholic priest. Possibly, knowing about the satisfaction I enjoy serving inmates in five prisons would edify, encourage, and hopefully, even inspire other retired priests to work in prison ministry.