

3rd Sun. Lent – Year C but using Cycle A Scriptures
St. Athanasius and St. Francis Parishes
February 27, 28, 2016

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy the month of February has been given to reflection on the Corporal Work of Mercy, Visiting the Imprisoned. You had articles in your bulletin last weekend on aspects of caring for the imprisoned. They were written by Dave Cushing of Waterloo Catholic parishes, and from Deacon Bill Hickson, director of Prison Ministry among our archdiocesan deacons.

One of our own parishioners has some extended experience with visiting the imprisoned. Steve Berns has agreed to share some of his experiences with us today.

Steve Berns' witness

Steve's witness centers on going into the unknown and being among the unknown. Steve attended the CEW retreat to experience Christ. Why else does one go on a retreat?

During the retreat in that unknown place, the State Reformatory at Anamosa, Steve experienced Christ in prayer and Sacrament. But Steve also experienced Christ in the unknown people ... in the prisoners, in offenders of the law.

At the well in Samaria, Jesus listened to the woman and the woman listened to Him. As they listened to each other, 'living water was discovered and experienced'.

Listening to those in prison, and also listening with them, 'living water' welled up within both Steve and the offenders. Each of them, and together as a group of men, they discovered Jesus as 'living water'.

During these mid-days of Lent, whom do I need to listen to harder and longer? Maybe it is someone as familiar as a spouse. Maybe, however, it is someone unknown, someone to whom I would normally not listen.

And, should I dare to do that, do I believe that 'living water' may well up within me, and the one to whom I am listening, just as it did to Steve and to those in prison?

In whom will I and in whom will you find the well of 'living water' this week?