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PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT

Family Group Goss



Fr Peter's Corner— Empower

EMPOWER – dictionary definition: – “To cause a person to feel confident and have control in their own life”

I experienced this with men in prison in Dallas, Pennsylvania. During my annual Retreat to the senior inmates I gave each of them a personalised letter from the Grace Cottage Passionist

Companions. Each man went quietly to a private space in the Chapel and devoured each and every word.

A bit later, Chief Dan Daly (FDNY) spoke to the men of his work with the ‘Wounded Warriors’ from Iraq & Afghanistan. Young men missing limbs who train to run marathons on special equipment. An inspiration hit me. - Let’s pass it forward. I asked the men if they would each

write a letter spontaneously to a young warrior. The response was a unanimous, overwhelming YES.

It was a God moment. Each of them felt worthwhile with a task to bring comfort and encouragement to their wounded brothers. The letters were extraordinary because these men are never asked to draw on their kindness and goodness for other people. The question is, “how can we also empower others? How can we pay it forward?”

Family Group Hands across the world

Maine, USA – Two parishes have just celebrated their 20th anniversaries of Family Groups – St. Charles, Brunswick and St. Philips, Auburn. Each church has taken the opportunity to pass on the role of Coordinators to new teams with the blessing of their parish priests.

Father Peter and Barbara Lunnon met with the Family Groups at small and large gatherings and Masses in both churches, accompanied by Dan Daly of New York, a long-time friend and strong advocate, promoter and motivator for Family Groups.



Fr. Peter with Fr. Don Jacques & Fr. Frank Murray

England to Australia to New Zealand



John & Penny Cassidy of the parish of St. Mary’s, Ipswich, England, not only accepted the request to look after our PFGM in the UK, but also to come Down Under to learn, firsthand, more about Family Groups. They met and talked with

heaps of members, Leaders, Coordinators and Directors in New Zealand and Australia. A truly worthwhile experience

(For a comprehensive report on the USA and UK, please request via email: family@pfgm.org)

Christmas gift/letter

Re the letters to the wounded warriors, mentioned above, one was from Army SGT Freddy B. Los Santos. His words are an extraordinary gift for each of this **Christmas** – “I was wounded in action and suffered above knee amputation of my right leg, TPI and PTSD. I will be receiving therapy and treatment for the rest of my life. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for keeping us in your prayers. You really helped us restore Faith and belief through your letters. There are no words to express my appreciation to all of you.

“It was a great honour to serve my country. Without my struggle I wouldn’t have known my strength. When least expected, life sets up a challenge to test our courage. Whatever situation you are in, don’t lose hope. I have given God total control of my life. It is His Plan, His Way, not my way. He does a far better job than me. Your support has made me stronger and I will forever be grateful.”