

# Thanksgiving 11/22

Partnership for Re Entry Program  
(PREP)  
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# OASIS

November-2018



Freedom  
Within

## Jerry Fleury

From the Desk of Fred Price

Greetings and blessings to you in this month of November!

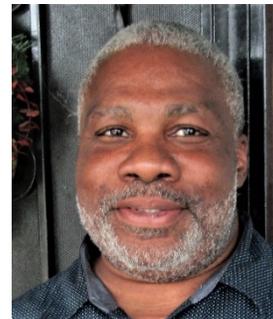
Sister Mary Sean is on vacation from October 23<sup>rd</sup> to November 7<sup>th</sup> and sends her love.

Dear God,

Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives, thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us. Thank you that you are able to bring hope through even the toughest of times, strengthening us for your purposes. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your mercy and grace. Thank you that you are always with us and will never leave us. Thank you for your incredible sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life.

With great gratitude I truly thank you for your donations of stamps and financial gifts you've made in response to our expression of need in the October Oasis to pay it forward in gratitude for all you have been given. As a parolee who has served a life sentence, I know what it means to be thankful and appreciate the opportunity we have in our lives to pay it forward. November and December are two of my favorite months, as they are reminders for us to be "thankful and to give." I give to you this month my sincere thank you for your on-going support of PREP and our efforts to serve you!

In late October PREP received over 40 pieces of mail sent to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. These letters were postmarked January through October. PREP is privilege to be a ministry of the Archdiocese. However, **NO MAIL FOR PREP SHOULD BE SENT TO THE ARCHDIOCESE. ALL PREP MAIL NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED TO: PREP, PO Box 77850 Los Angeles, CA 90007.**



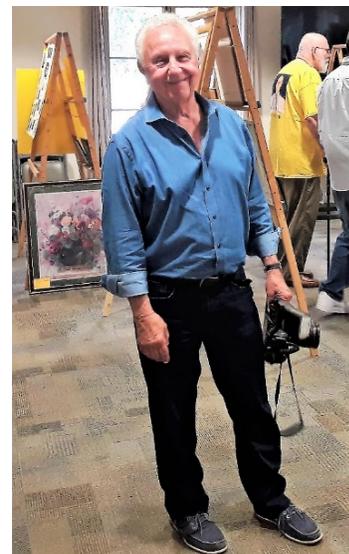
With extreme pleasure, we introduce one of PREP's newest members, Jerry Fleury. Through Jerry's knowledge, wisdom, and vast experience, he is fast becoming one of our greatest resources for ideas and support.

It is my honor to inform you, the PREP family, that we are now forming a board of directors to offer a greater depth and breadth of insight, perspective and experience to lead us in our ever-expanding directions. As a member of the Board, Jerry offers us a diversity of skills, and ideas needed for the growth of PREP.

Jerry has a well of experience with nonprofits and truly has a passion for making the lives of our incarcerated women and men better. Jerry's support and ideas will help us to develop new ways of being of service to you during your incarceration and upon your return home.

Sister Mary Sean's mission is to always bring you the best of what PREP has to offer, and I am certain that with Jerry's help and efforts we will continue that mission of quality.

Sincerely, Fred Price, Assistant Director, Partnership for Re-Entry Program



## Welcome to PREPLA.ORG, the PREP website!

By Dale Lozier



I am so honored to be PREP's trusted servant and given the opportunity to take on the role of Website Administrator. I have been with PREP for over three years and this is my first title position. A lot of times when asked what I do, I say, "I'm Sister's Do-Boy! I do what I am asked and am thankful for the opportunity."

This is a lot of responsibility, but I have a great team on my side to guide me and to help me learn the process. There is Jose Velazquez of the Archdiocese, an exceptional man who oversees and develops the many Archdiocese websites who will be teaching me the basics along with Jerry Fleury who has a lot of experience with his own website. I trust and believe that Jerry will continue to work with me

until I have a good grasp of website development and continue as needed.

It is our hope to have a website that is not only attractive, but user-friendly, leaving the user with an astounding knowledge of the world of PREP. Please, encourage your family and friends to check out **PREPLA.ORG** to get to know the people and the organization that is doing their all to provide you with the tools to fulfill your dreams in the outside world and to live better while inside. Go to PREPLA.ORG and enjoy the world that is PREP.

## PREP T-shirt Logo Contest

We are still looking for entries for our t-shirt and logo design. The winner will be published in our January issue. Please write T-shirt Contest on the front of envelope and send to PO Box 77850 Los Angeles, CA 90007.

## Stamp Donations

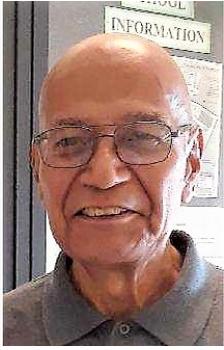
We are still in dire need of stamp donations to meet the our ever growing mission to serve you. PREP is a non-profit organization dependant upon your generous contributions.





## Changing Plans and Keeping Priorities

Jimmy Mejia



On August 18, 2017 I was released from prison after serving a 38-year prison term. Like most former lifers my parole plans existed only on paper and not in my head. However, because of my age and years spent in prison, I assumed, I was eligible for social security. I was wrong. If I was capable of working, I was required to do so. Therefore, I had to regroup my plans and find a job.

I found a job working in a warehouse, and because I was living in a re-entry house, I was able to save money and open a banking account. While working in the warehouse, I enrolled in college in order to complete my addiction studies program to become a drug and alcohol counselor. Going this route was not easy, but it paid off, I am working for the Volunteers of America as a Night Monitor, it is not counseling but it is a foot in the door.

Getting out of prison and trying to establish yourself after 38 years is not easy, but it is possible. Finding affordable housing is impossible. No one says to you, "Find all the affordable housing lists, sign up for them and apply for section 8 on day one of your parole." So now I pay \$500 a month to live in a shared room. I realize this is temporary and I am playing catch up with the low-income housing programs. I believe in God and have a friend working with me. Life on the outside is not easy, but it is possible.

## Gratitude Quotes from the Staff at PREP

Sister Mary – I am grateful for the PREP staff and all those we serve in and out of prison.

Fred Price – I am thankful for the life of my family, friends, Sister Mary Sister Guilli Sister Anne and the many blessings God has given me throughout my life.

Alfredo Cruz – I am thankful that I am not in prison anymore: physically or spiritually. I am thankful for God's unconditional love.

Tony Kim - I am thankful for my family and the friends I have and will continue to make.

Laurence Alvitre -I am thankful for my family and friends and those who continue to support me.

Jose Sandoval – I am thankful for a second chance. These holidays I will spend with my family and friends, after 25 years away from them. I am just thankful for all the blessings I've been given.

Daniel Adamik – I am grateful for my freedom to choose and the capability and tools to make right choices.

Dale Lozier – I am thankful for the opportunities I have been given to be of service and the trust people place in me.

Sister Anne Kindal – I am thankful for the love I receive at Prep and the joy of giving. I wouldn't miss coming down here.



**Our season of Art Shows began with two awesome shows, Homeboy 5K run/walk and Pilgrim Place.** The communities are more than overwhelmed by your talent. Thank you for continuing to send us your magnificent and creative art pieces in faithful support of PREP. Your amazing works decorate our office between shows.



## Always with Me

by Daniel Hernandez - CVSP

As always, I send my peace and love to you, the hard-working and dedicated PREP staff. I just received your letter today along with the chronos for the persevering participants. I appreciate your message of hope, blessing and prayers. Although it came the day after my initial hearing, I know it wasn't late. You were there with me all along; your sage advice, your unfaltering spirit and your piercing truth.

So now I send your way news on the wings of hope. I went in first thing in the morning and endured a 6-hour long hearing. Although I didn't go in with intent to earn a date, I remained confident and positive. I knew that serving time was never enough to take the place of the Life I took, that all I could do was give an account of my actions and explain how I became such an angry, violent person. In doing so, I was brutally honest about the crime, my whole life and left nothing untold. Admitting to a lifetime of callous disregard for others and leaving a trail of victims in my wake as an ex-gang member was the least of my worries. When asked why, I was able to explain through my relationship with God, that truth has manifested in me the man I am today.

My whole plan that day was to bring healing, transparency and closure to all those lives I have affected negatively. Of course, it's obvious to me now that people only accept that in their time of readiness. But what was also obvious was the remorse and healing within me, because after about 40 minutes of deliberating, I was called back into the room and found suitable.

I've been afloat ever since and have yet to let reality set in. God has gotten me this far, so whatever the future holds and I'm sure he has something in store for me, I readily await. I can't help but be thankful for the opportunity of a new chapter to be added to my life. While still finding a way of making a positive difference, whether in here or beyond



Floyd R. Thomas - SATF

these walls, I'll continue to seek him in all I do and feed into all those wonderful relationships he has brought into my life.

Speaking of that, I read the story "Life on the Inside" by Louis Calderon and I was happy to hear of his success. I'll be even happier to learn if it's my old cellie, because we were both lost back then.

Anyway, I'm including some more completions before my time is up. Once again. Thanks for the opportunity to be of service here. With all my love, blessings and prayers. God bless you all!

I would like to donate to the following organization in the amount of:

\$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this form and send to:

PREP

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