



Order of Malta Federal Association

The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances. If there is any reaction, both are transformed. Carl Jung

I recently attended a graduation ceremony at a women's prison unit for women who completed the *Bridges to Life* program. It is a faith based restorative justice program.

I could not help but notice some differences between the women's prison unit and the men's units I have visited. A significant percentage of the women had been abused throughout their lives. Many were involved in human trafficking at some point.

Although they were offenders, they were also victims. As such, they were able to look at forgiveness from many perspectives. What was most striking, however, was their insight in describing their faith journey. The women were observant, articulate, and openly shared their stories. Their faith was born from a kind of suffering and brokenness I do not know. Their stories made me feel like I am wading in the shallow end of the faith pool.

Those of us in prison ministry may think we are serving for the benefit of the incarcerated. Be prepared to accept the possibility that the Holy Spirit's purpose is our transformation.

Continue to pray for those in prison, their families, their victims, the families of victims, and all those who minister to them.