

The One Parish One Prisoner (“OPOP”) team Michael had their second meeting on Friday June 16. Our second meeting took place in person with all team members in attendance. This meeting’s discussion covered our second module which focused on defining success and discussing what success looks like. We also went around the table and read the letters that each team member received from Michael.

Team Michael defined success as a “relative” accomplishment. Success is often an accomplishment which by nature meets or exceeds a comparable challenge. Our team’s and Michael’s success will be defined by our journey together. So long as we put forth our best efforts, there is no outcome but success.

To date, the group has received seven letters from Michael and the group has sent ten letters to Michael. We went around the table and those that had a new letter from Michael, shared that letter with the group. There were some common themes in each letter:

- Michael is very emotional about being a part of OPOP. He mentioned in each letter that he was overcome with emotion and brought to tears, tears of happiness and tears of anxiety.
- He feels very alone.
- He is nervous about what is waiting for him on the “other side”.
- Michael was clear on his desire to repent and move forward in a different direction.

We pray that we seek after and find faithfulness on this tumultuous journey, that we wholly love and embrace Michael, each other on the team, and make our congregation proud.

Chris’s team also met this month. We discussed the theme of success, and all agreed that success has to do more with faithfulness than outcome. As stated in our module this month, “ ‘Success’ in this journey, if we have to use that word, is opening such relationships of embrace and trust. Success is learning how to be faithful. Success is mutual transformation. We can’t force it. We can only choose to stay connected, stay open to what comes. We stay in relationship.” Our team feels like we are growing and learning and have stepped out of our comfort zone in entering into this Journey with Christopher.

We also shared the information from the letters we received from Chris. We have asked Chris what he would like to share with the parishioners so please stay tuned for information about Chris. Please include Christopher and Michal in your prayers as well as both teams. May God bless and keep you.