



SISTER JEROME'S POOR

Mr. Kevin Keith, Chairman, Word Masters

March 9, 2014

Mr. Michael Dineen, President, Links

Warden Christopher La Rose, Trumbull Correctional Institute

Gentlemen:

Allow me to congratulate both Links and WordMasters, the Warden, and respective staff for the superb job of knitting 250 beautifully handcrafted woolen hats for the homeless and very poor persons who walk, struggling, every day to the St. Vincent de Paul diner here in Youngstown for their only good meal. Last week, the warm hats were enthusiastically and gratefully received by 250 extremely poor persons who come regularly to the diner. There were even some pretty knitted hats for children. Sadly, little children often come to St. Vincent de Paul diner. But generous grocers and church members bring delicious meats, veggies, fruits, and desserts, even home-made soup. Then volunteers from the Catholic churches and other volunteers serve these famished people with the greatest loving care and respect.

I wish you could have seen the joy. Some guests had not worn a hat that day in 15 degree weather. And everyone even got to choose their favorite color. The poor never have a chance to choose, but they did that day. Imagine—from under the bridges, from apartments with no heat, from homes no locks on the doors—everyone received a beautiful, hand-knitted warm hat, feeling so cozy. God was certainly with each of you as you worked carefully and skillfully to make each hat beautiful and useful. You knit every hat with love. How truly Christian were your work and your attitude.

I thank Chaplain Alexander Kostenko and Julie Loomis for delivering the hats to me on that bitterly cold morning. Kudos to Warden Christopher La Rose and all staffers who cooperated together to develop the uplifting atmosphere there at TCI. No wonder the Ohio Correctional Institution Inspection Committee called TCI "one of the safest, cleanest and best managed security facilities in Ohio," and termed the environment there "safe, humane, and even rehabilitative." Your service to the poor of your communities is remarkable. Your sacrifices to help others remind us of Christ's words, "Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for Me." God bless every one of you. Let us continue to pray for one another.

With appreciation and admiration,

Sister Jerome Corcoran, Ph.D., volunteer director, Sister Jerome's Poor





150 pounds of vegetables donated by TCI inmates to fight against hunger

staff report

LEAVITTSBURG

Inmates at the Trumbull Correctional Institution, 5701 Burnett Road, have joined in the effort to battle hunger.

Offender groups started and funded a community garden, which was worked on 10 hours a day, cultivating 150 pounds of vegetables that were donated to local agencies in Warren.

Warren Family Mission, Tod's Crossing, and Free Indeed were the first recipients. Future donations are to continue on a weekly basis.

"The main goal is to provide healthy vegetables to

those in need, while providing offenders with meaningful activities to make a difference in the community," TCI Warden Christopher LaRose said in a news statement.

The idea originated from an inmate who was a farmer before his incarceration.

Startup plants were donated by two inmate groups: Links, which focuses on helping offenders become productive members of society, and **WordMasters**, whose mission is to enhance Christian communication skills in a public forum with biblical principles and ethics.