

The Pastor's Letter this week is from Chris Loewer, Director of Outreach

St. John of the Cross wrote *"Where there is no love, pour love in, and you will draw out love."* Today's readings focus on forgiveness of others. We are to forgive, as we have been forgiven through frequent confession, those around us who have done us harm. Forgiveness does not represent justice, which is the Lord's alone. We forgive others to be closer to Him.

At Mother Teresa House, we deal with many types of people who have done many things against others, but we are still to show Christ's love to them. Over the hundreds of calls and the dozens of personal visits each month, we deal with extreme poverty, addiction issues, mental health issues and lifestyle issues that place them in great need.

For those seeking financial assistance, we work with our great St. Vincent de Paul conference here at OLR, the other local SVdP conferences and the many other organizations that help. So many are trapped in this cycle of poverty, I call the poverty culture. It is a culture of no hope, do as little as possible, and survive using community resources. For the homeless, we open doors into the shelters if they are willing to go. With those with addiction issues, we work to get them with counseling and into treatment programs. For mental health, we get them with Greenville Mental Health to work on solutions to treat their mental health. For those with alternate lifestyles, we show Christ's love and find programs for them if they want to change. Nobody can be forced to make a permanent change; they have to want it for themselves. We can open doors, but they must walk through. We will take every step with them they are willing to take for themselves. Do some folks lie just to get something they want? Sure, but we keep offering. We keep showing His love to them. We love the sinner, not the sin.

What I ask from each of you is to increase your faith, take advantage of the sacraments and pray for us and those we work with. Your generous contributions and prayers have strengthened us. Your prayers for those we work with will pay off in the proper season. We will continue to work the fields, and your prayer will eventually produce more fruit, as it already has.

*"My whole strength lies in prayer and sacrifice;
these are my invincible arms; they can move hearts far
better than words, I know it by experience."*

St. Therese of Lisieux