

Practicing Creativity

Helen Prejean, the nun whose experiences with death-row inmates led to the movie, *Dead Man Walking*, shared these observations about creativity:

In creating, we imitate God ... To be a creator is part of what it means to be a human being. I met a guy on death row in Arizona who had nothing ... So he would unravel his socks and weave little necklaces with crosses out of the threads. The first time I visited another death-row inmate, he gave me a picture frame he'd made out of gum wrapper foils.

These men were locked in a small cell 23 out of 24 hours a day; they had absolutely nothing, and still they were reaching out to create something of beauty and worth.

Because of a poor start in their rearing, perhaps, and certainly as a result of wrong choices, such individuals seek to make something beautiful out of the wreckage of their lives.

On the other hand, we are fortunate in Life Care, American Lifestyles and Life Care at Home to have associates who have made right choices in their careers, and who imitate God by creating:

- Smiles on the faces of those they serve.
- Happiness and hope in the hearts of those who are challenged by age or physical setbacks.
- Harmony among those with whom they work, for they know they cannot deliver the best care if they don't care about one another.
- Encouragement for the families of residents, who often feel guilt and despair over actions they must take.

Creativity? It's an everyday activity for our associates.

--Beecher Hunter