

The Daily News

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Bouquets

The most precious gift

From Michael Malnar, Alpha Omega Resident, Iron Mountain:

As a care giver for my uncle, who was a severe alcoholic, I had to purchase his groceries. Along with the food, I purchased his alcohol as well. The guilt I felt when my uncle died from an alcohol-induced heart attack, caused me substantial grief.

In turn, I myself began to consume alcohol daily. Soon I found myself in desolation. At my lowest, I prayed that our Blessed Mother would ask the Father to just help me. That, if he would just open my eyes, show me the way, I would follow him. Low and behold, within just a few days I was arrested due to my drinking.

Underneath my bunk's mattress I found a book titled, "Catechism, What every Catholic should know." Right away I thought, I sure wasn't going to say no to God, and I read and I read and reread.

A few weeks into my stay, I started to feel that despair once again. I became scared of the thought of returning to my old ways, depression and drinking. Again, I prayed for help. During a conversation with another inmate, and having told him how I was feeling, he suggested that I attend Deacon Don Christy's Thursday-night classes. After my first Thursday I was hooked. Instead of counting the days, I was counting Thursdays.

I received the most precious gift of my life. I was Baptized, Confirmed, and received First Communion.

Through my attendance of Deacon Don's class, I was accepted into the Alpha Omega Residential Program, where I have been living now for the past three months. I'm so grateful that God would chose me. Because of Alpha Omega, spiritually, mentally and emotionally, I am in a great place.

I would just like to say thank you to the founders and the community for providing Alpha Omega.

Bouquet

From Merriett Cox, Alpha Omega Resident, Iron Mountain:

There are so few opportunities in this area for men and women who need help with their addictions and a new start in life. But let me tell you about one.

I am a 51-year-old man with the addiction of alcohol. I have truly damaged my own life, as well as the lives of my family and children. When I hit my true bottom, I didn't know where to go or what to do.

I was introduced to Alpha Omega, a rehabilitation home like no other. First off, they tell you "welcome home."

You're hugged, you're understood.

This is a spiritual program. It's all about "getting right with God." Anyone battling addiction can attest, it's needing a personal relationship with God. I am a resident at Alpha Omega. I have been treated with respect.

I have trusted in these people, because they trust me, something an alcoholic doesn't have much of.

Given the opportunity to be a part of creating my own program, I started with a roof over my head, food in my belly, clothes on my back, and love raining upon me.

Alpha Omega has helped me to truly appreciate life. Yes, my family life is still a mess, and a lot of my mental skills have been lost over the past years and years of my addiction.

But this house, well, you can just feel the presence of love and forgiveness, when you first walk in. There are residents here, who, 6 months ago, I would never have gotten along with, nor they me.

But today, we have begun to learn how to love our brothers, and though we have our differences, we are learning to appreciate one another for who we are.

This year I had a Thanksgiving that I could truly pray and give thanks for. This Christmas, I can truly celebrate the life and a relationship with my savior, that I've always had the opportunity to have, but not the skills to understand. Christmas is special to me this year. The celebration of the birth of my savior, as well as my own.

To all those who are in the spotlight, and truly to those behind the scenes of Alpha Omega, I want to thank you for this gift. And for those who truly want to change their lives, you're welcome at Alpha Omega.

God is waiting, just say hello.