

Two prisoners from a prison in Rome got a very special chance to meet the Pope, Pope Leo XIV. They went with the prison chaplain and the prison director. When they met him, they felt very happy and moved by his kindness.

The Pope told them something important: even when we make mistakes or feel like we are not good enough, God still loves us and wants to help us. He reminded them that everyone can have a fresh start.

The prisoners were so thankful for the Pope's words that they made a beautiful silver "Cross of Hope" for him. It showed that they wanted to change, be better, and have a good future.

Questions to think about and discuss:

Q: How can kindness and meeting new people, like prisoners meeting the Pope, help someone make good choices?

Q: How can we help people start again after they've made mistakes?



Bible Story:

Then Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive someone who hurts me? Is seven times enough?"

Jesus answered, "Not seven times, but seventy-seven times!" (Matthew 18:21-22)

Questions to think about and discuss:

Q: What do you think Jesus wants us to do when someone has done something wrong to us?

Q: How can Jesus' teaching about forgiveness help us think about people in prison or those who have made mistakes?

Q: How can we forgive people while also making sure they learn from their mistakes and have a chance to change for the better?



In the hot summer of 2021, Italy was very, very hot, especially in Rome. Pope Francis, who cares a lot about people, wanted to help those who might be having a really hard time—prisoners. He knew it must be very uncomfortable to be in prison during such heat, so he sent 15,000 ice creams to people in several prisons in Rome to help them stay cool and feel happy. This wasn't just about ice cream. It was a kind and caring act that showed the prisoners they are important and deserve to be treated with respect. Even though they were inside prison, Pope Francis wanted them to know that people outside still care about them. It was a way of showing love, kindness, and mercy to everyone—even those who are often forgotten.

Q: Why do you think Pope Francis wanted to send ice creams to people in prison?

Q: How do you think the prisoners felt when they received the ice creams?

Q: Can you think of a way we could show kindness or care to people who might feel forgotten or left out?



Each year, two Mini Vinnie groups in London help the SVP prepare Christmas cards for people in prison. These special cards are made so that prisoners can send them to their families and friends at Christmas time. The children reuse last year's cards to create new ones—a fun and creative way to care for our planet through upcycling. This activity helps Mini Vinnies think about how small acts of kindness can bring hope to others, especially those living in difficult situations. Prison chaplains often tell us how much these cards mean to the people who receive them. Being able to send a Christmas card to loved ones helps prisoners stay connected and reminds them that they are not forgotten.

Q: How do you think it feels for someone in prison to send a Christmas card to their family?

Q: Why is it important to care for the environment by reusing and upcycling things like old cards?

Q: What does this activity teach us about kindness and remembering people who might feel alone at Christmas?

