

- Fr. Greg spends a lot of time talking to the homies about their different conceptions of God. Do you believe in God, and if so, how does your belief color how you view disparities in privilege and opportunity?
- Fr. Greg often integrates poetry into his teachings. He quotes Rumi (p. 26) "Find the real world, give it endlessly away, grow rich, flinging gold to all who ask. Live at the empty heart of paradox. I'll dance there with you—cheek to cheek." How do you think Fr. Greg interprets these lines? How do you think that interpretation informs his approach to his work? How do you interpret these lines?
Warning: ING THOUGHT- how does this compare with "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice; shame on me." Or as President Bush said, "There's an old saying in Tennessee — I know it's in Texas, probably in Tennessee — that says, fool me once, shame on — shame on you. Fool me — you can't get fooled again."
- What has made Boyle so successful in reaching the gang members? Is it his message, his personal charisma, or something else?
Warning: ING THOUGHT - This brought to mind Fr. Richard Rohr and how often people see him as a guru. He needs to remind those who admire him that he is not the message; he is simply a conduit. What is good/bad about having a charismatic leader in any organization?
- In what way were you changed by this book? What surprised you most...moved you...angered you? What did you learn by reading *Tattoos on the Heart*?
- Fr. Greg's books have been banned from many Christian bookstores. Does this surprise you?
- Do you have any tattoos? How do you feel about them (whether you have one or not)? What would you have tattooed on your skin? What do you have tattooed on your heart?
- Warning: MORE ING THOUGHTS - Ing said
- I would love to know what you all thought about what Boyle wrote on pages 171-173, his disagreement with Dorothy Day.
- Also, thoughts about the "slow work of God" on page 179 and other places following.
- I think about an old friend, Mark, who works for the AIU in an alternative school - the last chance for students. He said that he, as a white man, has to remember that for most of these students, the only white men they have ever known have been arresting them or a member of their family. He is very big on the "infinite chances" idea and said that it is hard for people to learn when they first begin working in a place like he does. Often, they think that the students are "ungrateful" and "Why can't they understand that we are here to HELP them? Why would they not be kind to us?"
- I heard Fr. Greg say this, or maybe I read it somewhere:
Compassion is not "for" others, it is "with" others.
Jesus was one with us. He was not a man FOR others. He was a man WITH others.
Jesus didn't seek the rights of lepers. He touched lepers before he got around to curing them.
He didn't champion the cause of the outcast; he was the outcast.
"Jesus' strategy is a simple one – he eats with people. Precisely to those paralyzed by toxic shame, Jesus says, 'I will eat with you.' He goes where Love has not yet arrived." (page 70)
Thoughts on this?

- Also, I had an unbelievable experience with a woman who is on her journey with dementia-- and WOW did it demonstrate for me Fr. Greg's idea of "reciprocity."