

THE "KOLBE" EXPERIENCE
A Muslim's Perspective

My name is Noel Cordoba Sr. and I recently attended the Kolbe #11 retreat on the Connally unit. I loved every minute of it and hope and pray I can attend again.

I am also a practicing Muslim.

At first glance it would seem as if the two religious faiths would have little, if anything, in common. However, that is a myopic view of what I see when I encounter my Catholic brothers. The Kolbe retreat is centered on two things: love and service. The testimonies we hear and the outpouring of emotion we see are indicative of why the outside team members in conjunction with the inside team members work so diligently to give the retreatants a memory they will cherish for years to come.

Let it also be noted that the Kolbe retreat is also about education. I for one learned much about the different saints and the view the Catholics have of the Virgin Mary. Its not all singing. Questions are asked and openly answered. Bonds and bridges were made. Hopefully lives were changed.

Yes, I am a practicing Muslim and I cherish Islam. But make no mistake, if we, of all religious persuasions, were to focus more on loving our fellow man and serving the interests of others before ourselves, we could positively and permanently change the world.

That is a tenet we all hold dear, no matter what we call ourselves.

To paraphrase the old, Polish priest who gave Mass on Friday afternoon: All we have here is five minutes. Time is only a number. Let's spend the miniscule amount of time we have on this planet loving and serving each other.

May the peace of Almighty God be with you all.

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