



The Office of Prison Ministry is proud to present from **“GANGSTER TO PHOTOGRAPHER” Juan “Cricket” Alamillo**: 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m., May 25 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 400 E. Monroe St., Phoenix. He will be sharing his story and displaying his photographs taken in Northern Arizona. We are inviting about twenty people that would be interested in this wonderful event. His work will be for sale.

We first met Cricket in 1998 when we were involved in intense outreach in his neighborhood around 15th Ave and Buckeye Road in South Central Phoenix. We were and are still mentoring many young men and women in that hood that had and (have) extreme challenges with gang life, poverty, violence and many other hardships. Juan went to prison for 7 years at age 18 and then 10.5 years at age 26. He has been out for over 3 years now. Juan chose to live in Winslow Arizona to stay away from the temptations of the inner-city hood life. He has been working and taking care of his wife and young daughter.

About seven months ago Cricket started taking pictures of nature with his phone. Juan really enjoyed this new experience. He really did not want anyone to know! We got wind of his newfound passion from one of the homies in the network. I called one of our volunteers (Joe Lester) that shares this passion as well. I asked Joe if he could do some research on finding a nice camera. Joe was off to the races. He called me back in about an hour and said I found a great deal a \$1,000 camera for \$500. This was around Christmas time. We had to make the purchase in the next 30 minutes. OK?? How are we going to get \$500??? Joe said, “I will purchase the camera and we can figure out the finance later. I told him “go for it!” We were able to take care of the expense with donations from St. Patrick’s Parish, Joe and an anonymous donor.

One of the homies took up the camera to Cricket in Winslow. He had no idea it was coming. He was overjoyed and full of gratitude.

Please consider being part of this wonderful journey of God’s beauty in nature and teamwork. Juan is naming his newly found passion of being out in nature **“THROUGH NEW EYES”** and bringing to canvas the beauty of God’s creation. Juan has been given an opportunity to see with new eyes, at a deeper level.

Thank you for your time and commitment to this most precious ministry.

If you would like more information, please call me @ 480-370-9397 or e mail me kstarrs@dphx.org

Blessing

Kevin Starrs
Office of Prison Ministry
Diocese of Phoenix