



Order of Malta

North American Prison Ministry Apostolate

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2016

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PRISON MINISTRY

Report of Activities—2016

OVERVIEW

The North American Prison Ministry Apostolate (“Apostolate”) consists of the leadership of the three United States and Canadian Associations of the Order of Malta. The Apostolate was formed in direct response to the request of the Grand Master of the Order of Malta.

Collectively, the work the Apostolate oversees consists of the following;

Participants- we have over 2,500 knights, dames, auxiliary and volunteers working with us.

Locations-we reach some 37 countries in the Western Hemisphere through our quarterly publication, “The Serving Brother” and jails and prisons throughout the United States and six provinces in Canada.

Religious Materials-We distribute over 12,000 Malta English and 6,000 Malta Spanish bibles and a like number of Malta English and Spanish prayer books and prayer cards.

Visits-We see incarcerated men and women in some 60 jails and prisons. We mentor many of the men and women through Bible Study classes and further assist with spiritual growth through attendance at various religious services including the celebration of Holy Mass.

Pen Pal Program-this is a two-way anonymous correspondence with over 175 inmates throughout the country.

Re-entry-We assist hundreds of recently released individuals through mentoring, distributing Resource Guides of available social services for those in need, providing housing, meals, medical, education services and the like in designated caring centers.

Families-We reach hundreds through mentoring children of the incarcerated, providing transportation for visits and Christmas gifts.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

Prison Ministry in the American Association continues its active outreach to the incarcerated and their families throughout the territory of the American Association and in cooperation with the other associations of the North American Prison Ministry Apostolate.

Our prison ministry volunteers go into jails and state and federal prisons, minimum, medium and maximum security. The American Association goes into Death Row in Florida and the Federal Association, Tennessee and Georgia. The American and Western Associations are responsible for Death Row at San Quentin in California. We bring the Word of God to our Catholic inmates, we celebrate Holy Mass with them, we baptize and confirm them, we hear their confessions and bring the Eucharist to them. We listen to them and let them know that there are those “on the outside” who care about them and are praying for them.

During the past year 10,000 English language bibles and 5,000 Spanish language bibles were distributed, through our Catholic chaplains, in some 35 states in the United States. An equal number of English and Spanish language prayer books were also distributed. The bibles and prayer books were made available through the generosity and support of the American Association. The storage and shipment of bibles and prayer books were made available, at no cost to the American Association, through the generosity of Tom Pecora, KM.

In addition 150,000 copies of “The Serving Brother” were distributed throughout the United States, Canada, the Caribbean Basin, American Samoa, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands. The Federal association reimbursed the American Association for the publications shipped in the territory of the Federal Association as did the Canadian Association. Shipments to the

Caribbean Basin were made possible by a generous grant received from the Order's ambassador to the Bahamas.

Considerable effort is being made to ease reentry into society by the previously incarcerated. Under the leadership of John Santa, KM. "The Justice Imperative" was published in Connecticut. The Connecticut Area continues to work with men about to be released from prison helping them with their resumes and developing their skills in participating in job interviews.

Andy Vissicchio in Florida, in concert with Barry University, developed "The Florida Employment Guide" which provides information for those newly released from prison as to where to go and whom to contact to seek employment. This document complements the previously published "The Florida Social Services Guide to Public Assistance for the Benefit of Ex-felons and the Homeless". These two publications assist the previously incarcerated in finding a place to live, getting a job, having their driving license restored and obtaining medical help. The production and dissemination of these documents was made possible by a generous grant from the Amaturio Family Foundation.

In addition, our efforts in Florida have been greatly aided by a generous contribution from the South Florida Area of the Order of Malta

We continue to mentor children, ages six to eighteen, in Camden New Jersey, one of the poorest cities in the nation. Collaborating with the Center for Family Services, we have trained and certified men and women working with these children, many of whom are the sons and daughters of incarcerated parents. We strive to keep these children on "the straight and narrow" and in school at least through high school.

Prison Ministry in the Order of Malta has grown considerably over the past few years. According to our survey, some 2,500 knights, dames, auxiliary and volunteers are involved in this apostolate throughout the United States. Prison ministry in the Order of Malta is the largest volunteer Catholic outreach to the incarcerated in the world.

Robert J. Fredericks, Ph. D., GCMOb

Report from Areas of the American Association

Boston Area—Joe Feitelberg, KMOB

Barnstable County Correctional Facility--Pat and Bob Donahue, AUX

Residents Encounter Christ (R.E.C.) is a three-day spiritual retreat based on the Cursillo format for the residents at the Barnstable County Correctional Facility. The theme of the weekend is the Paschal Mystery: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Team members prepare for the weekend five weeks prior and present the talks on the weekend reflecting each aspect of the paschal mystery. Priests come in on Saturday morning for Reconciliation, and the holy sacrifice of the mass is offered on Sunday for the close of the retreat. There are three weekends for men and three for women each year. Team members follow up on Mondays for the women and Tuesdays for the men. There is also an after R.E.C. program on Sunday nights on the outside for those residents who have left the facility. Those meetings are held at Catholic Social Services in Hyannis.

St. Clare's--Theresa Brosnan, DM

St. Clare's is a Catholic faith based program for women who have left the jail. It is a six-month program sponsored by the Fall River diocese and is in Hyannis. The women attend AA/NA meetings and attend Gosnold for counseling services. The director is Elaine Haley who has an assistant and a person who does scheduling for volunteers. There is also an overnight person.

Francis House, Inc.--Theresa Brosnan, DM

The mission of Francis House, Inc. is to promote community safety and to assist male ex-offenders being released from prison to become productive members of the community. It will be a six to ninth month commitment and will be a faith based, structured living program with twenty-four-hour supervision. The men will be required to attend AA/NA meetings and chose a church community and attend services. Everyone will have a plan to help him with gaining employment and attending classes that will include anger management, financial

responsibility, life skills, parenting, meditation, and GED preparation. Opening 2017.

Bristol County House of Correction--Fr. Mark Hession, ChM

R.E.C. (Residents Encounter Christ) is a prison ministry active in the Bristol County House of Corrections, in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Under the direction of the Catholic Permanent Deacon Doug Medeiros of the Diocese of Fall River, this Ministry offers the tender mercy of Jesus Christ, and therefore the hope for a reconciling future to the women and men residents incarcerated there. The Ministry offers a retreat modeled upon the Spanish-based Retreat called Cursillo, which celebrates the diversity within each person as the source of our community, and spiritual unity. Essential to each retreat (offered several times every year, for women and for men) is the Sacrament of Reconciliation; visiting priests come into the jail and administer sacramental forgiveness to residents looking to let go of their hurtful past and embrace the gift of a new beginning in their personal lives. Before each retreat closes, a visiting priest celebrates Mass for the residents/team, helping all to give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus, who is our bread broken and shared for our eternal good. A Monday/Tuesday support group comes together throughout the year during which Scripture is shared, and the life experiences of the residents, at a most personal spiritual place, is cultivated and nurtured.

New Hampshire Dismas House Paul Young, KM

The Order of Malta has expanded its prison ministry into New Hampshire over the past year through Dismas Home of New Hampshire. Dismas Home serves a critical need in NH by offering a safe haven to women leaving the State Prison and offering them a loving environment and the tools they need to successfully transition into society including:

- managing substance abuse issues
- taking advantage of educational opportunities

- receiving individual and family counseling services
- preparing for and finding a job
- engaging with a faith community

National statistics consistently show that programs such as Dismas Home of NH reduce recidivism rates from over 60% to the 10-20% range. Our goal is to keep 16-18 women out of prison each year.

The support for Dismas Home of NH by the American and Federal Association represents a tremendous example of various Associations working together as desired by our Grand Master. Mike McGarry (Federal) and Paul Young (American) serve on the Board of Dismas Home of NH and Tom Garasche is an active member of the Advisory Board. More than 60 volunteers gave more than 2,500 volunteer hours of their time to make the vision of Dismas Home a reality in 2016. Now that the home is fully operational, the number of volunteers and volunteer hours is expected to increase significantly in 2017 as we accomplish our mission and begin planning for a second home in New Hampshire.

Volunteer work includes board participation; visiting the residents; cooking and serving daily communal meals; resource development and communications; financial training; transportation; shopping; and home improvements and maintenance.

Since its inception, a significant majority of the financial support for Dismas Home of NH has come from individual donations from Order members. In keeping with the Apostolate's interest in re-entry programs such as Dismas Home of NH, the Boston Area donated a van to the home and the Federal Association made a \$15,000 contribution.

MCI Norfolk--Craig Gibson, KM

MCI Norfolk (Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Norfolk), is a medium security prison in Norfolk, Mass. with an average daily population of 1500 inmates. MCI-Norfolk is the largest state prison in Massachusetts. The Malta presence started in October 2014 with three attendees at a monthly Monday

night Mass celebrated by Fr. Chris O'Connor, who serves as Vice Rector at St. John's Seminary. Fr. O'Connor usually brings along seminarians and faculty from the seminary. The Malta group joins the inmates once a month on Monday nights for Mass, a speaker, and fellowship time with inmates, many of whom have life sentences. The formal orientation program has now been completed by 10 members of our group (9 KM & 1 AUX) and we usually have 6 - 7 members in attendance at the monthly gatherings for the liturgy and fellowship time. In addition, our overall Boston Area ministry team includes 1 Malta members from the Rhode Island Area.

MCI Framingham--Mary Jo Kriz, PREP

Sr Maureen Clark is our Chaplain at MCI Framingham. This is a maximum-security facility for women. She runs many programs for the women. I have been going there for eight years. I have been meeting with one woman every week for an hour as her spiritual director for seven years. I was meeting with another woman for five years and she has returned home to her family. I also assist with Mass on Sunday if Sr needs me. It is the most amazing ministry. It is a great grace to be allowed to walk either women on their journey.

"The Serving Brother"--Steve Caron, KM & Fr. George Williams, S.J., ChM

The Area's most visible contribution is this quarterly publication that is distributed to prisoners. Founded here in 2009 in cooperation with the Archdiocese of Boston, it continues to be published, printed and shipped from the Boston Area. The work is edited in California. Both English- and Spanish-language printed versions are available throughout the USA and Oceania. Unique English-language editions are published for both our Canadian and Caribbean readers. An electronic Spanish-language version was introduced in 2016 to advance the effort with our SMOM confreres throughout Central and South America. At present, the quarterly printing ships 52,500 copies to thirty-seven nations. Special mention is made of some thirty high school students who are involved in the publication's hard copy distribution.

Warren State Prison, ME--Earle Rugg, KM

This involves the Diocese of Portland and its Catholic Charities visitation work.

Vermont—Deacon B.D. Glinka

All seven prison facilities in Vermont are being provided with Malta bibles and prayer books. They also receive “The Serving Brother” on a regular basis.

Cincinnati Area—Thomas J. Gruber

The Order of Malta, Cincinnati Area continues to participate in ministry at the Hamilton County Justice Center. We conduct a Eucharistic service monthly at the jail. Five members of our Malta Area participate. Additionally, Deacon Don Meyer, an auxiliary member of our area manages and directs the entire Catholic jail ministry for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Deacon Meyer has been assigned this responsibility by Archbishop Schnurr.

Connecticut Area—Jack Murray and John Santa

Jack reports that he and Scott Barnard delivered 34 boxes containing 750 books to Danbury Prison. Mike Nowacki took another 6 boxes to the Hartford Correctional Facility. A total of 5,500 books have been delivered to 9 prisons in Connecticut this year.

Tom Moriarty reports that his team mentors women upon release from York, the Connecticut women’s prison.

John Santa reports that the Malta Justice Initiative has just completed an historically unprecedented study of employer opinion on the hiring of formerly incarcerated people. The program was primarily sponsored by the Tow Foundation with a \$40,000 grant which was also supported by the Order of Malta and the Inner City Foundation of Bridgeport, Connecticut. The results of the survey of over 300 employers are just now going to press and will be shared with all members of the North American Prison Ministry Apostolate. The report is anxiously awaited by not only the social justice community but also by key state agencies (Correction, Labor, and the Governor’s Office) but also by our

legislators and the business community at large who were invaluable in the carrying out of the project.

Indiana Area—Fred Crowe

We operate under the name of Jobs Inc. a 501 C (3) Company as our initial mission was to get inmates employed upon their release. Over the last three years, we have broadened our approach by going to the Westville Prison and meeting with 15 to 20 inmates every other Thursday. The Westville Prison is located 40 miles from South Bend which is our base of operation. The format for our meetings is to initially have a twenty minute talk by one of our members. We cover practical suggestions to help our inmates upon release as well as their growth in Christian faith. Each meeting lasts for about one and one half hours. After the talk, we break up into small groups with three to four inmates with one of our members. We discuss what was said at the presentation and whatever else the inmates wish. By this approach, we get to know the inmates so as to better offer them help upon release. We have received many positive comments from the inmates which we find very encouraging.

Minnesota Area—Steve Hawkins

Kevin and Fay Connors from our Minnesota delegation will be holding their third REC (Residents Encountering Christ) retreat inside Lino Lakes Prison and their fourth retreat this year on the weekend of December 3rd in Stillwater Prison. Their August retreat inside Rush City facility drew 28 inmates. To date they have ministered to over 100 inmates. In the interim they will be attending the Prison ministry conference in Milwaukee in November.

The Prison Ministry Coalition in the south suburban area of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis meets monthly and works with various collaborators and the Archdiocese to carry out projects and raise the profile of how Catholics can be involved in Prison Ministry through various venues.

The Embrace ministry was established with three churches in the South Suburban Coalition that partner to assist a person in transition from prison. To date, we have assisted one person who was released from prison in October.

Embrace

Through contacts from parishioners at several parishes, assistance was provided to obtain housing, furnishings, clothing, and transportation, employment and mentoring- both personal and financial. Most importantly, a welcoming environment and support was provided while the individual was in prison and upon release.

Angel Tree

A Christmas program was coordinated through Prison Fellowship Ministry. The program was partnered among three churches to obtain and distribute Christmas gifts to 30 children of 21 families that have a parent in prison. In addition to the gift selected by the incarcerated parent, Catholic bibles are provided to the families and a bible is shipped to those in prison. Parishioners deliver the gifts and bible to the family. The volunteers provide support through fellowship and prayer with the families during the visit with an invitation to worship at our churches.

Rosary Distribution

Correctional facilities were contacted to determine the need for rosaries. A total of 1,130 were distributed in 3 facilities. In addition to the rosaries, the booklet "How to Pray the Rosary", obtained from the Knights of Columbus, were shipped to the correctional facilities to be included with the rosaries.

Prayer Warriors

Contact was maintained with over 100 parishes that have committed to be Prison Ministry Prayer Warriors. Prayer requests are sent to them when we participate on retreat teams through either Charis or REC. They are asked to pray for the attendees, the team, all inmates, their victims and families. We pray that the Holy Spirit will provide guidance and touch their hearts.

Retreats

We have participated in Retreats Encounter Christ (REC) Retreat Teams in REC retreats at Rush City and Stillwater Prisons.

Workshop

We held our third Prison Ministry Workshop since March 2014 . Six speakers including two formerly incarcerated shared their experiences and involvement in this ministry. This was followed by a working lunch which provided an opportunity for attendees to talk informally with speakers and others representing various approaches to Prison Ministry. The planning for the next workshop scheduled for March 2017 is in progress.

New Jersey Area- Bob Fredericks

When Prison Ministry was initiated in the American Association in January of 2007, we had one Catholic chaplain for the entire State of New Jersey! Today, we have 51 chaplains-priests, deacons and sisters- and many lay persons working with them.

Bob Tanzola volunteers at the Trenton State prison, a very old maximum security prison housing approximately 2,000 male offenders. Many have been convicted of violent crimes and are incarcerated for 20 years to life. Bob works with the prison's Catholic chaplain, Sister Elizabeth Gnam as well as the Trenton Diocese prison ministry chaplain, Father Martin McGeogh.

Bob volunteers on Tuesday mornings, within the time permitted by the prison authorities, from 9 AM to 10:30 AM. He walks along the walkway outside the cells and speaks with the prisoners through the bars. He distributes Malta bibles and prayer books, The Serving Brother, Catholic literature and rosaries to those who request them. There are often limitations imposed by the correction officers as to which tiers are open to a visit but, on a good day, it is possible to visit with 20 inmates. They are short visits but seem to be appreciated, even by non-Catholics.

At the Morris County Jail we have 4 priests, one of whom is native Spanish speaking and 8 lay persons serving the spiritual needs of our incarcerated men and women. In addition to Mass being celebrated on Tuesdays, bible instruction for the men and women is conducted weekly.

Our mentoring program for young people in Camden, ages six to eighteen continues. Many of these young people are children of incarcerated parents.

We try to keep them in school at least through high school. In at least one instance, the education of one of our mentees, in a charter school in Camden, is being financed by one of our knights.

Upstate New York Area—Jennifer Van Tuyl

Two of our members teach a Catholic class at Green Haven Prison which is a maximum security prison in Dutchess County. The class takes place twice a month. Over the past year, the classes have concentrated on the lessons to be learned from the lives of the saints and holy men who have been imprisoned. Those we have studied include Ignatius Cardinal Kung, Maximillian Kolbe, Father Capuan and Walter Cizcek. We have also studied great literature and spent a number of classes on Dante’s Inferno and Purgatorio. Malta provides bibles, prayer books and “The Serving Brother” to the prison. We have also been invited to special masses at the prison for Confirmation each year. For the coming year, we are planning to begin the Bible Study Program “Luke: The Gospel of Mercy”. The series by Catholic Scripture Study International includes a video, but the class can be taught even if we are not able to obtain a gate clearance for the video portion.

Westchester, New York-MarionGlennon

We in Westchester continue to visit and pray with inmates in the Bedford Hills Maximum Security Prison for Women. There are five of us regularly with one new recruit. We also contribute magazines, books, greeting cards, calendars and yarn to the inmates.

Scranton Area—Grace Dawgert

We partner with EOTC (a social service agency in Scranton which provides many kinds of services for women and families). EOTC has a mentoring program for women while they are still incarcerated at the Lackawanna County Prison and continues the program after the people are released.

Malta member Grace Dawgert volunteers every week in the program inside the prison. The women receive education in job interviews, anger management, co-dependency issues, self-esteem, etc.

Grace Dawgert teaches “Women Who Write” a writing and literature course once a week at Lackawanna County Prison.

All 12 Malta members contribute books to the ladies in the mentor program. One of the holiday projects of the Scranton Area is a special gift bag for the 30 ladies in the mentor program that is held at EOTC. This year we will be giving them a “quiet time” bag with red blankets with the Malta logo, Malta prayer books and bibles, rosaries, toiletries, and an assortment of books to read.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

Roman J. Ciecwierz, KMOB

The Canadian Association’s primary mission continues to be the distribution of “The Serving Brother” to the incarcerated while making efforts to expand the work of the ministry through the recruitment of additional members and volunteer support. “The Serving Brother” reaches many institutions in very remote parts of the country in six provinces.

For the first time we distributed prayer books and bibles to five institutions in Canada and “A Minute in the Church” series of booklets, as well as, additional prayer cards produced by the Federal Association.

This expansion of resources to aid chaplaincy in Canada is very exciting as it increased the visibility of the SMOM prison ministry efforts to more institutions

and chaplains than ever before. Also, exciting news for us was the addition of New Brunswick, the first province east of Ontario, to our regular distribution list.

It is important to remember that most of the Canadian federal prisons lie in very remote areas and certainly far from where our membership resides. Notwithstanding this, we are striving to find additional ways to grow the reach and participation of prison ministry in Canada.

FEDERAL ASSOCIATION

2017 has been a growth year for the Prison Ministry committee. We are active in 17 of our regions and are in the process of adding 2-3 more regions. We have over 200 members and volunteers serving the incarcerated and the recently released.

Activities include:

Assisting Prison chaplains/ Deacons in distributing our Malta Bibles, Prayer books and Prayer Cards (over 3,000 annually).

Translating our prayer book into Spanish (with the help of the Cuban Association).

Visiting the incarcerated (over 30 members and volunteers)

Participating in our Pen Pal Program (over 100 members and volunteers).

Providing monthly “reflections “on prison ministry to raise the consciousness of our members and Pen Pal writers (these are also provided to the American, Western and Canadian Associations).

Packaging Christmas gifts for inmates and their families; caroling in prison.

Creating a prison library program and providing religious books to various prisons.

Working with the American Association members and others to open a home for recently released women to enable them to get re-established.

Providing meals to recent releases.

Participating in restorative justice programs where inmates recognize the impacts of their actions. One of our members will be participating in a restorative justice program in Iran.

Working with Catholic University of America in preparing Malta Guides for DC, Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia. These guides are for recent releases and others in need and will provide relevant current information of public and private resources related to food, shelter, clothing, medical, licensures etc. The Guides will be completed in 2017.

Preparing a prison Ministry section for our Association's web-site to be completed in 2016.

We are also active in the North American Prison Ministry Apostolate that consists of the leadership of the prison ministries of the three United States Associations and the Canadian Associations. We have been asked to serve as co-chairs of the Apostolate beginning in January, 2017.

As members of the Apostolate, we attended meetings in San Quentin Prison, California and in Toronto, Canada where we met with many of our Canadian confreres.

Mike McGarry and Collins Whitfield, co-chairs.

Report from Areas of the Federal Association

Atlanta—Patricia Turpin

We now have 14 of our members involved with the our Pen Pal program communicating with 22 men.

Our library project involves providing Catholic reading material to 14 metro Atlanta prison facilities.

We collect new and used issues of Magnificat to establish full year sets which are distributed within the prison system for individual inmates.

Baltimore—Patrick C. Walsh, M.D.

The Baltimore group continues to pursue one- on-one ministry at the Chesapeake Detention Facility (CDF), a Federal institution that is part of the large prison complex in east Baltimore. There are seven members of the Order, along with another half dozen individuals who have been recruited by members from their parishes, who attend on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. The prisoners we visit are individuals who are facing trial and sentencing for Federal crimes who have requested a religious visit. Some of them only speak Spanish and for them Charlotte Ponticelli is a God send. Because they are sent to other prisons to serve their sentences, there is no opportunity to help them with re-entry. Furthermore, we are prohibited from maintaining personal contact with them once they have been released, so we are unable to continue with a letter writing program. For this reason, their names are sent to headquarters in Washington to be distributed to members who are active in this ministry.

In recent months, we have been requested to begin a new ministry at the Baltimore Reception and Diagnostic Classification Center, a prison that houses about 650 men who have just been sentenced. They reside here while being evaluated for transfer to their final destination. Bob Rogers and I have accepted this opportunity and have been providing a two hour communion service on Tuesday to 5 to 15 Catholic inmates. As opposed to the CDF, which was formerly a Super Max and has no meeting rooms, this prison provides the opportunity to have group sessions and discussions of the bible. Here there is a wonderful Baptist chaplain, Christopher Wallace, who has been most helpful, and of

course, we are most blessed to have Father Charles Canterna to oversee, inspire and support all of our work.

Dallas—Kip Rolland

We are communicating with several inmates as part of the Pen Pal program.

During this past year, through the Diocese of Dallas Apostolate for the incarcerated, we have distributed almost 1,000 bibles and the prayer books, “I Am Always With You”, sixty per cent in English and forty per cent in Spanish. We have stopped handing out our bibles in the county jail (though there are some exceptions) as many of these inmates are in and out. The bibles are mostly reserved for those in the state penal system (TDC). The prayer books have been a major hit.

Des Moines—Tom Moreland

The Des Moines Area is just getting started in Prison Ministry. Tom Moreland reports that t he and Brian Crotty are conducting a Pen Pal program with their inmates.

Houston --Douglas A. Sandvig

Prison ministry in the Houston Area is a combined effort of the Federal and American Associations. _The ministry is growing in prominence, awareness and interest. The more people who participate, the easier it is to generate enthusiasm. Hospitaller support is crucial.

The initial guidance provided by Mike McGarry and Collins Whitfield that this ministry will grow slowly is right on the money. It seems that we have been at it for some time and I sense that we are starting to get some traction.

Member Education

- 1) It has been helpful to make our members aware that the Grand Master has requested that the three United States Associations become engages in the work of prison ministry. It helps overcome resistance to serving this community. Many people still do not know this.

- 2) We (the leaders of this ministry) are invited to provide updates to members at our gatherings on upcoming events and opportunities to serve. Just having a spot on the agenda raises the awareness of this ministry. Hospitaller support (and enthusiasm) makes a great difference. Our Associate Chaplain is also very supportive. I would encourage other regions to use the chaplains as a resource. The prison chaplains tend to be stretched too thin and are unknown to our members.
- 3) The monthly reflections have been very well received. I try to keep them short so people will read them. I get enough comments to indicate that people read them and talk about them. I think that this has helped generate enthusiasm.

Prayer

- 1) The cards with *A Daily Prayer for Justice and Mercy* have been distributed to all our members (several times). All members have been encouraged to keep and use the Daily Prayer on a daily basis. I suspect that most cards get lost and few use the cards frequently, but I still support putting them in front of our members often.
- 2) An American Association member created a beautiful prayer card. She created the art work and wrote the prayer. These are distributed to members and prisoners. Very nice.
- 3) Prayers for the incarcerated, their families, their victims, their victims' families and those in the criminal justice system are included in our general intercessions at our Masses. This has dropped off some since I stopped writing the petitions. I will start suggesting petitions to the individual who writes them now. I think this is a simple way to bring this community to our thoughts and hearts.

Participation

- 1) Bibles. The distribution of bibles remains an important way for us to reach out to those behind the walls. Our Archdiocesan chaplains are grateful and distribute them promptly.

- 2) **Pen Pals.** We have 26 people who are Pen Pals: 20 Federal Association; 2 American Association; and 4 volunteers. Several write to more than one person. I estimate that we are writing to about 40 offenders.
- 3) **Pen Pal Handbook.** We have assembled a digital handbook for those who would participate in a Pen Pal program and anticipate developing an educational program to assist in introducing them to this community. I shared this with Mark Henke of Kansas City to help them get started.
- 4) **Sending Cards.** For those who do not want to commit to a pen pal, sending a card to an offender is a way to open the door. We sent Easter cards to about 40 offenders. Christmas is coming!
- 5) **Inside the walls.** Three members have been visiting the incarcerated by attending graduation ceremonies for those who have completed the **Bridges to Life** restorative justice program. A Fourth member has served as a facilitator for that program. Three members visit a specific inmate. I went to a Kairos retreat and will go to another on the first weekend in November. I go to Prayer and Share on Tuesday nights (when I am in Houston) at the Terrell Prison Unit.

Future Initiatives.

1) We hope to get more of our members inside the walls to visit the prisoners. There is no substitute for seeing them where they are and getting a brief glimpse of their unique society.

2) I have seen the employment template put out by the Florida group in the American Association. I would love to engage a few of our members to put out a similar publication for Texas. It is a practical way for us to help the offenders get back into society. I would especially like to focus on helping previously incarcerated women. Men can find good paying jobs in construction and truck driving. It is more difficult for women. It is too easy for them to get pulled into trafficking

Kansas City—Mark Henke

Mark Henke reports the following:

Our local bishops and Archbishops have served people and families impacted by incarceration for decades. Archbishop James P. Keleher, STD visits prisons most weekends and is active with our Malta community.

Two local Malta members have been active in mentoring people recently released from provision.

We now have 10 people enlisted as Pen Pals for our incarcerated brothers and sisters.

Former member Richard W. Miller, now deceased, was active in helping people recently released obtain employment in construction.

Prayers continue.

North Carolina-Triad Region—Jim Lentz

The Winston-Salem prison ministry provides Mass, confessions, songs and spiritual guidance for approximately 30 Hispanic and Angle inmates every Tuesday afternoon inside the Federal Prison in Winston-Salem. We also provide Order of Malta bibles to our inmates as we'll as three hour counseling to the inmates on three Saturdays during the year.

Northern Virginia—Bruce Gnatowski

Currently, I am part of the Catholic Charities of Arlington, Virginia prison ministry team for Loudoun County. Under the direction of Deacon Larry Hammel, my involvement is limited to the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) in Leesburg. I also coordinate the Alateen program at the JDC, meeting with the teens every other week.

This past September at the 59th Annual Retreat /Convention, membership of the Calix Society elected me president for a two year term. It is my deep desire to see the Callix Society contribute in some way to the Order's prison ministry

efforts. Calix, founded in 1947, adheres to a deeply Eucharistic approach to alcohol abuse and drug addiction recovery. The society is an enhancement to, and an offshoot of, Alcoholics Anonymous.

William D. Williams, III reports that he has been working with Terry White developing an updated Email directory of our Order members involved in prison ministry and the program with which they are involved (parish, diocesan).

We will follow-up with the coordinators to obtain more specific information on our coverage area (jail, prison) and what materials are being used, including Order materials. This will give us a good baseline for going forward.

Chris Mannion is spreading the word about our Pen Pal program and Bruce and I will jump in as well.

Syracuse—Sharon Cirincione

Sharon Cirincione reports that we now have 12 of our people involved in our Pen Pal program.

One of our members is visiting an inmate in prison.

Three of our members are involved preparing Christmas packages and caroling for the inmates.

WESTERN ASSOCIATION

San Francisco--Patrick Kraft

Patrick Kraft reports that the "Get on the Bus" program being pursued by the Western Association, by which relatives are able to meet with their incarcerated loved ones on Mother's and Father's Day, remains active. During the past year Patrick was in charge of the visitor's room which contained 40 inmates and 80 children.

Patrick visits San Quentin Prison every other month for Mass in the beautiful Catholic chapel, followed by Mass in the hospital with our Catholic chaplain Father George Williams, S.J., Ch. M.

He visits San Luis Obispo Prison for one day every three months visiting with the men and the Catholic chaplain mentoring the men and helping to prepare them for release.

On December 11, Patrick will be with the men in SLO Men's Colony and on Christmas Day he will attend three Masses at San Quentin.

He continues to mentor a woman in the Monterey area who has spent 6 years in prison and helps her with her family and encourages her to regularly attend her Baptist Church services. Her faith is her life line.

Duke Powers has been instrumental in increasing the number of members of our Order visiting San Quentin for Mass and mentoring men before and after Mass.

Los Angeles and Phoenix, Arizona

In addition to visitations to San Quentin and Salinas State Prisons, the Western Association has programs underway at the Nidorf Juvenile Detention Center in Sylmar, outside of Los Angeles and the Orange County Jail and a ministry program in formation at the Maricopa County jail in Phoenix, Arizona.