

PRISON MINISTRY COMMITTEE CHARTER
American Association Order of Malta



Purpose The Prison Ministry Committee shall assist the Board of Councillors in monitoring and providing full support for all of the active prison ministry programs in the Association; monitoring and supporting the ongoing Malta bible and prayer book distribution program; monitoring and supporting the expanding Pen Pal program; and expanding all communication activities to enhance awareness about the impact of all prison ministry outreach programs.

Goals To monitor and fully support all active prison ministry programs in 30 Areas within the American Association; and to initiate new prison ministry programs in all Areas, and especially in those Areas not currently active in hands-on prison ministry outreach. To educate and inform Malta members and friends about our prison ministry activities and their heartfelt impact on the incarcerated, those in re-entry programs, their families, and others. To provide a range of ongoing formation activities for members involved in prison ministry to deepen their understanding of pastoral ministry and strengthen them as missionary disciples. To raise the awareness level about our prison ministry programs, and collaborate with other allied organizations, i.e.: Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition, Catholic Mobilizing Network, Dismas Ministry and with local (arch) dioceses.

Duties and Responsibilities To reach the above goals, the prison ministry committee will utilize a variety of methods including but not limited to the following:

- Maintain active communications and support with all individual prison ministry program coordinators
- Oversee and monitor all prison ministry programs and explore opportunities to start new programs both in Areas with active programs, and in Areas with no current programs in place
- Oversee and monitor the Malta bible and prayer book distribution program
- Oversee and monitor the Prison Ministry Pen Pal program
- Oversee the publication of the monthly prison ministry email newsletter, and all updates to the prison ministry landing page, and other link pages on the American Association website
- Contribute articles to the American Association “Hospitaller” newsletter on a regular basis
- Initiate an online speaker program on a range of suitable and timely prison ministry topics
- Initiate a monthly online prayer gathering to strengthen the spirituality of members involved in prison ministry
- Update the listings of all prison ministry programs on an annual basis for the online Spirituality in Action Resource Book
- Prepare and distribute an annual report of activities and results to the Board of Councillors.

The committee will submit all updates and any action recommendations to the Board of Councillors on a timely basis.

Membership The committee shall be composed of nine, or more members, appointed annually by the committee chair. The president of the American Association shall designate the committee chair.

Meetings The committee shall meet at least four times annually, or more frequently as it shall determine is necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities. The chair will schedule regular meetings; additional meetings may be held at the request of 3 or more members of the committee. The committee shall meet at least once annually in person, if possible, during Investiture weekend.

Mary Jo Kriz, Co-Chair, DM (MA)

Bob Nephew, Co-Chair, KM (MA)