



ORDER OF MALTA PRISON MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

May 2025

“Lord, when did we see you in prison and visit you?” – Mt 25:39


OUR MISSION


We are called to **spread Christ’s love** by defending our faith and caring for the poor and suffering. In particular, we serve **those affected by incarceration** through direct involvement and faithful presence. Guided by the Holy Spirit, and in communion with all Prison Ministry efforts, our work includes:

- Personal visitation, prayer, and spiritual support
- Ongoing communication with incarcerated individuals
- Guidance and materials for successful reentry
- Distribution of Bibles, prayer books, and sacraments
- Collaborations with Catholic and civic organizations
- Faithful stewardship and reporting to the Order of Malta

2024–2025 AT A GLANCE

Growing Impact — Expanding Reach
(Final numbers for 2024 still incoming)

 **21 Projects** across **15 States**


 **200+ Knights, Dames, Auxiliaries & Volunteers**

 **Over 4,000 Service Hours** Logged

Materials Distributed

 **2024:**

- 1,300 English Bibles
- 192 English Prayer Books
- 816 Spanish Bibles
- 1,728 Spanish Prayer Books

 **2025 (so far):**

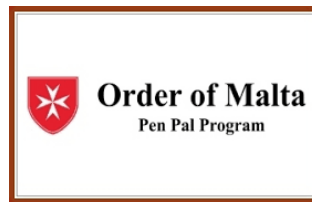
- 1,360 English Bibles
- 3,180 English Prayer Books
- 336 Spanish Bibles
- 824 Spanish Prayer Books



MINISTRY IN ACTION

We offer a wide range of **spiritual and practical support**:

- Mass & Communion Services
- One-to-One Spiritual Direction
- Bible Study Groups & OCIA
- Rosary & Guided Meditations
- Retreats & Ignatian Exercises
- Christmas Gifts & Birthday Cards
- GED & Educational Programs
- Re-entry Support & Welcome Back Backpacks
- Angel Tree



<https://orderofmaltaamerican.org/spirituality-in-action/prison/pen-pal/>

The American Association's Pen Pal Program is a popular way to become involved in our ministry. Knights, Dames, Auxiliary and Volunteers have joined the Program, which consists of (1) letting us know you would like to become a pen pal, (2) being given an inmate's name to whom you would write, (3) being furnished "guidelines" and general pen pal information and (4) writing to your pen pal once a month.

- Since 2018, we have had over 1.1 K insiders participate; 320 have been released, 49 have discontinued for various reasons. Currently 682 insiders participate.
- Currently there are 652 outside pen pals; with 30 withdrawing through the history of the program
- The current number of Order of Malta Pen Pals are 53

"I was in a dark space, and He brought me home... Your pen-pal ministry blessed me. I'm now out, stable, and ready to serve—I know firsthand the fruits of it!"

– Former inmate, now volunteer candidate

"National statistics tell us one in three parolees return within three years. Those who have pen-pals return at less than one in thirty."

– Steve Hawkins KM, National Pen-Pal Coordinator

TRANSFORMATION

Revolutionizing Distribution in 2025

Thanks to a partnership with **Christianbook, LLC**, we're transitioning from a manual, volunteer-led model to a **professionalized monthly order and distribution system**.

 *All Bibles will now feature a larger 11-point font for improved readability.*

Digital Expansion

This encompasses our costs for producing/acquiring materials for distribution on prison tablets in collaboration with Catholic Distance University (CDU). CDU is the oldest and largest On-line Catholic University. They have established an alliance with Edovo, a tablet provider to 500 US prisons whose platform distributes digital content. We have access to this channel through cooperative development of content via Malta's Federal Association.

Dismas Home Expansion (NH)

Dismas Home, New Hampshire serves post-incarcerated women released from the NH Correctional System. Seven years ago, Malta (Boston Area) donated a van which has become a necessary tool and program staple. In 2024, Malta AA Prison Ministry supported the repair and maintenance costs of the van. Dismas Home is opening a new home in Rochester, NH which will house 20 women. Together, with the original home in Manchester, the NH Dismas Homes will house 28 women. In 2025, the AA of M Prison Ministry is supporting the construction of a secure medicine room for the new DH facility in Rochester. This is required by NH State law.



FROM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE WALLS

"This is the first time anyone has ever given me a gift." (upon receiving an Order of Malta Bible)
– Resident, Somerset County Jail

"Our efforts improve inmates' attitudes—and those around them. This makes our job easier."
– Correctional Officer

"The emotional support is the greatest gift. Having someone on the outside who believes in them gives students the strength to finish school—inside."
– Emerson College Reentry Program

“Some of been relieved of significant spiritual obstacles (oppression), others have come back to the faith, and a few have come into the faith. We often see inmates praying together, and helping others get closer to God, and helping through this difficult time.”

– DM

“According to the guards: Our efforts has improved the overall attitude of the inmates involved, and those around them. This makes the job of the guards easier.”

– DM

“In 2025, the projects we are running will provide Criminal Justice Ministry with both financial and manpower assistance. The recently incarcerated men will have freshly updated apartments with the appliances Malta Missouri Area delivered via the Malta Mobile Ministry van and the men will have some critical personal goods to make their lives more normal. “

– DM

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Every facility is different. Navigating **unique restrictions and systems** remains one of our most persistent hurdles. Your continued support helps us **meet these challenges with creativity and faith**.



A DAILY PRAYER FOR JUSTICE AND MERCY

Jesus, united with the Father and the Holy Spirit, give us your compassion for those in prison. Mend in mercy the broken in mind and memory. Soften the hard of heart, the captives of anger. Free the innocent; parole the trustworthy. Awaken the repentance that restores hope. May prisoners' families persevere in their love.

Jesus, heal the victims of crime. They live with the scars. Lift to eternal peace those who die. Grant victims' families the forgiveness that heals.

Give wisdom to lawmakers and to those who judge. Instill prudence and patience in those who guard. Make those in prison ministry bearers of your light, for ALL of us are in need of your mercy. Amen

JOIN US

Whether through time, prayer, or donations, **you can be a part of this life-changing work.** Visit our [Prison Ministry website](#) to learn more or contact Mary Jo Kriz DM, Prison Ministry Committee Co-Chair at maryjo.kriz@gmail.com

Order of Malta – American Association | Prison Ministry

Faithfully serving Christ in the imprisoned (see link below for short stories and articles by those who minister in the prisons)

<https://orderofmaltaamerican.org/spirituality-in-action/prison/news-2/>