

"... I was in prison
and you came to visit me..."
(Matthew 25:36)



"My friends, if a person is
caught in some transgression,
you who have received the
Spirit should correct that one
in a loving and gentle way."
(Galatians 6:1)

"God rescued us from darkness
and brought us to the kingdom
of His beloved Son in whom
we have redemption and
forgiveness of sin."
(Colossians 1: 13-14)

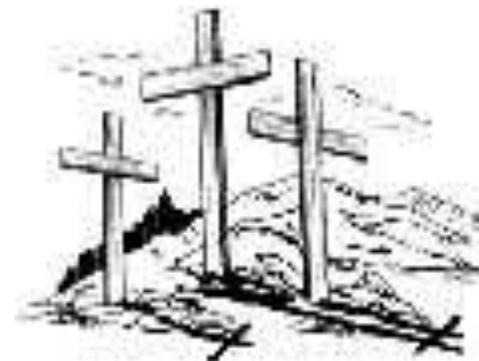


"By this, all men will know
you are My disciples,
if you have love for one another."
(John 13:35)

Criminal Justice Ministry



Volunteering In Ministry Service



**Catholic Archdiocese
of San Antonio**

Telephone: 210-734-1980

The Church Behind the Walls



Most correctional facilities have a chaplain who is responsible for the spiritual care of offenders; however, the ratio of one chaplain to a thousand or more offenders is common. With administrative tasks and emergencies taking up much of the Chaplain's time, it is difficult to run programs without volunteers.

BACKGROUND

The Catholic Church has a rich tradition in ministry to our brothers and sisters incarcerated in Texas. This is rooted in our social teaching, which directs the community to minister to those who are on the margins of society including those in jails and prisons. This attitude of service comes directly from Sacred Scripture, particularly in the Gospel of Matthew (25:36) where Jesus says, "When I was in prison, you came to visit me."

PRESENT SITUATION

There are 35 incarceration facilities in the archdiocese with over 10,000 Catholic men, women and youth in federal and state prisons, county jails and juvenile centers. This is a huge mission field for the Church. Many of the offenders are unchurched, have a broken relationship with their family and community and need to hear the Good News of God's unconditional love and forgiveness. If nothing is done to restore the faith of these offenders, the cycle of crime will continue.

VOLUNTEER

Lay ministers are needed to offer Catholic teaching to the adult/youth incarcerated through bible studies, catechism, RCIA, prayer services and rosary, and a correspondence program. Priests are needed to offer Mass and hear confessions, and deacons/trained lay to lead word and communion services. In the community, parish support groups are needed to assist victims and families of the incarcerated, ex-offenders with basic needs and employment, and those dealing with an addiction. In addition, Kolbe retreats are offered to those inside the walls, mentoring for those on parole or probation, and support in other social justice areas.

Volunteer Application

Sign up by checking boxes below:

Minister to the incarcerated

- Adults
- Juveniles
- Coordinate ministry for parish
- Lead a support group for families
- Reach out to victims of crime
- Help ex-offenders coming home
- Join Kolbe retreats in prison
- Mentor parolee or probationer
- Help w/correspondence program
- Work on social justice issues

Name: _____

Address: _____

Parish: _____

Phone No.: _____

Email: _____

Training

Volunteer training is offered to all interested in participating in Criminal Justice Ministry (CJM) in one or more areas listed above.

Please Send Above Information to:

Deacon Bob Leibrecht, CJM Director
St Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
180 St Thomas Drive
Canyon Lake, TX 78133
Call Archdiocese
at (210) 734-1980, or
contact Deacon Bob
at (432) 889-3858