

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINISTRY DIOCESE OF BEAUMONT



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May 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 19: Scheduled execution of Quintin Phillippe Jones. Pray for the end to the Death Penalty

May 22-23: Pentecost Sunday, Rebirth for the Church in SE Texas

June 1-11 Supply Drive for Stiles and Gib Lewis

Happy Spring!

New life is in the air! We may be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel for a return to some kind of normalcy. It will still take time to get back to pre-Covid numbers with volunteers in the prisons. Slowly but surely we are getting back to Mass, Communion service, and Renew in a few units. To quote Bishop Toups, "We're not going back to normal, we're going back to BETTER." May this be our vision for the revival of prison ministry:

New life, new focus, new energy!

"For I was in prison, and you visited me."

Matthew 25:35

CATHOLIC PRISON MINISTRY COALITION

The mission of [Catholic Prison Ministry Coalition](#) (CPMC) promotes Catholic ministry to all those affected by incarceration. Their goal is to recruit, train, support and empower those called to this ministry. Each month they offer a webinar and town hall on various topics. This month's webinar is on Women and Re-Entry. You can register [here](#). The topic for the town hall will be Alternatives to Violence. Register [here](#). All are welcome to join both each month.

VOLUNTEER STATUS

Prisons continue to open slowly with limited volunteer access and programs. If you want to be prepared and need to renew your volunteer status, it's a good time to do so. During the Covid restrictions, you can renew online. If you have not completed a training online before, you'll need to choose "Register" to create a profile here

https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/php/prod/volunteer_training/

If you have questions, call me or the TDCJ Volunteer Services at (936) 437-3035. When you renew, please send me your renewal date.

THANK YOU!!

In April, we collected 1245 items for the women at the Plane and Henley units in Dayton. Chaplain Kevin Hrebik sent this message: "WOW, I am seriously impressed by the size of this donation. Please convey to your ministry team my sincere appreciation."



Questions? Comments?

Want to share anything in the upcoming newsletters?

Contact:

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STILES AND GIB LEWIS SUPPLY DRIVE

I'll be advertising this next supply drive through the month of May. This gives you time to get a few items each week and shop the sales if you'd like to participate. This information will go out to the whole diocese. It also allows more parish organizations to spread the word. Collection for the Stiles Unit and Gib Lewis (both male units) will be June 1-11. Please share with your parish and organizations. Brands aren't as strict at these units, but I gave a few suggestions. Regular sized items please...no large bulk items or travel size items.

Items to donate to Stiles and Gib Lewis:

- VO5, Dove, or Suave Shampoo, approx 12-15 oz
- Speed Stick, Degree, or Right Guard Stick Deodorant approx 3 oz
- Aim, Pepsodent, Crest, or Colgate Toothpaste
- Bar Soap, any brand
- Body Wash, any brand, approx 12-20 oz

*You may drop off donations at the Catholic Pastoral Center
710 Archie, Beaumont, TX 77701*

***Collection times will be 8am-4pm
June 1-11, 2021***

RE-ENTRY TEAM

One area where awareness has grown these last few months is the need for re-entry services for those men and women who are being released from prison. Many have no plan for housing, clothing, food, job, transportation, etc. We are looking for a few volunteers who would be willing to serve on a separate outside team to help organize resources and share ideas. Maybe you know of someone who is not called to minister inside the prison but who may want to assist with those re-entering society, to be a point of contact to our local social service agencies, and be part of a team to help make connections. Re-entry needs are very unique. Do you know anyone who may fit that profile? Volunteers who serve in the prison should not serve on the re-entry team.

ALPHA

Alpha is an international faith-based program which helps inmates come to know Jesus in a non-threatening way. Alpha is in the Stiles Unit, and the director from Houston wants to introduce it to the other prisons here in the diocese. If you're curious about what this program is about and how you can participate, see more information [here](#). Let Sr. Misty know if you're interested!