



OFFICE OF PRISON MINISTRY PEN PAL LETTER WRITING PROGRAM

(link from website)

The Church, in expressing Jesus' mandate in Matthew 25, calls us to perform corporal works of mercy. The call to visit the imprisoned is, paradoxically, both challenging and inspiring. Some of us are called to go into prisons and be present to those who are in custody in correctional institutions. However, this corporal work of mercy can be accomplished in another way. One of the most compassionate undertakings is to exchange letters with adults in custody.

OVERVIEW

Individuals are in custody because they have harmed others. While the safety of the community mandates that they be incarcerated, punishment need not and should not deprive them of their dignity as a person made in the image and likeness of God. Unfortunately, the world of incarceration strips one of autonomy, traumatizes and isolates. The opportunities for authentic rehabilitation and restoration are minimized or lost. Often a person who is incarcerated is rejected or neglected by family and friends. Exchanging letters is a way to be active in prison ministry, to serve others and to make a difference in someone's life.

Your letters can show compassion, care and understanding to adults in custody, and often contribute to bolstering his or her self-esteem. They also help them remember that there is a world outside of prison and that they are not forgotten.

The program is designed with your safety in mind as paramount, with an application process for both parties. If you wish to explore this further, please contact:

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