

Just as God never abandons us, we too must be in covenant with one another. We are all sinners, and our response to sin and failure should not be abandonment and despair, but rather justice, contrition, reparation and return or reintegration of all into the community.

— USCCB, *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice*



Parish Social Ministry

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(207) 523-2772
psm@ccmaine.org

Additional Resource:

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishop's
Information and Resources:

www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/criminal-justice-restorative-justice/index.cfm

www.ccmaine.org/PSM

"We are still a long way from the time when our conscience can be certain of having done everything possible to prevent crime and to control it effectively so that it no longer does harm and, at the same time, to offer to those who commit crimes a way of redeeming themselves and making a positive return to society. If all those in some way involved in the problem tried to . . . Develop this line of thought, perhaps humanity as a whole could take a great step forward in creating a more serene and peaceful society."

— Pope John Paul II, July 9, 2000



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Prison Ministry



*Responding to the
Spiritual Needs of People
in Maine's Jails & Prisons*



“I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

— Matthew 25:36

Catholic parishioners from all over the diocese are journeying with those in correctional facilities here in Maine. They are working toward a more complete life enjoying the riches God has intended for us all.

This rewarding ministry helps bring Jesus' embodiment of unconditional love and true forgiveness to those who often find themselves cast out by society and living a life without much hope.

Please consider joining in this important ministry through a wide variety of opportunities described within.



How You Can Help

Inside Facilities:

- Join a parish prison ministry team and meet with inmates at your local county jail or prison for faith sharing opportunities.

Outside Facilities:

- Partake in letter writing to inmates as many of those incarcerated receive no mail at all.
- Provide re-entry support through financial assistance.
- Form or join a prayer group to pray for those that are incarcerated. Pray for their journey towards wholeness, their communities and those affected by crime.
- Advocate by talking/writing to legislators about supporting policies that uplift the dignity of the human person for those that are incarcerated or formerly so, such as criminal justice policy, sentencing and restorative justice.
- Prayerfully gather to support family and friends of those incarcerated or for those that are back living in our communities.
- Donate religious materials (Requirements are set by facilities so please contact Parish Social Ministry for acceptable list).
- Start something new! There are myriads of needs for those incarcerated, formerly incarcerated and their family members so please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to respond.

The Prison Ministry is a ministry of the Diocese of Portland and is funded by the Catholic Appeal. For more information about what is being done in your parish community or these opportunities please contact Parish Social Ministry at psm@ccmaine.org or (207) 523-2772.



Frequently Asked Questions

Am I safe in the facilities?

Yes! There are many people in each facility to help keep everyone safe. Onsite guidance will be provided by the correctional facility staff to help you.

How can I help if I don't have any experience or training?

You will be guided in whatever activity you choose to participate. There are written materials available and many people are ready to help you learn what needs to be done so that you feel comfortable.

Why should I help people that have committed crimes?

As Catholics, we respect the humanity and promote the human dignity of both victims and offenders. We believe society must protect its citizens from violence and crime and hold accountable those who break the law. These same principles lead us to advocate for rehabilitation and treatment for offenders, for, like victims, their lives reflect that same dignity. Both victims and perpetrators of crime are children of God.

— U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops