

The Prisoner Outreach Ministry is part of the Prison/Jail Ministry at the Catholic Diocese of Lansing, Michigan.

We hope that your participation in this ministry will be one small step in your discovery of God's awesome, fatherly love for you. We invite you to commit yourself to the following:

- Count your blessings daily, giving thanks for what God has already given you.
- Pray daily, if you can from your heart, that God would help you increase your faith and to move closer to trusting Him and His care for your life.
- Pray daily that your thoughts, words, and deeds will be renewed as a result of this practice.
- As you correspond with one of our volunteers you would act as a friend.
- Read scripture from a bible, open it up and see what God has to say to you.

Prisoner Outreach Program

Diocese of Lansing

PRISONER GUIDELINES

Spiritual encouragement and support to prisoners through letters.



St. Dismas, in his most vulnerable state, hanging next to Christ, revealed his sin to Jesus. In that moment, he was transformed and was made ready for paradise.

*Mail Letters to:
Prisoner Outreach Program
Diocese of Lansing
228 N Walnut St.
Lansing MI 48933*

HOW IT WORKS

We are a Catholic ministry. However, prisoners from all faith traditions are welcome even those who are unchurched. We recognize that many prisoners are lonely and our ministry strives to provide help with this.

Prisoners hear about us through word of mouth inside prisons and they write to us asking for someone to write them. In response, we then will send you our Prisoner guidelines and an application form. We ask you to fill out the form and mail it back to us. The information is kept confidential in our office.

In the next step, we will assign a volunteer to write to you. You will receive a letter from our office as to who will be corresponding with. **We only use first names.** They will write to you once a month.

We are here to support you along the way as you communicate with this individual. If you have any questions please feel free to contact

us at **Prisoner Outreach
C/O Prison/Jail Ministry
Diocese of Lansing
228 N Walnut St
Lansing, MI 48933**

*All correspondence **must** go through the Prison/Jail Ministry office first.*

MAILING ADDRESS (Important)

Both the writing volunteer and prisoner are not allowed to exchange letters through a home address. Instead, all correspondence is sent to the Office of Prison & Jail ministry where it is opened and read. Letters with unacceptable content will not be forwarded and the writer will be removed from the program. While this may seem like an invasion of privacy, it is necessary to provide a margin of safety for our volunteers. It also allows our office to make sure everyone is following through with what they committed to do.

UPON YOUR RELEASE

This letter-writing relationship will come to an end upon your release. This can be difficult, but it is necessary. Please contact a chaplain at your prison facility to help you.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- + **Write at least** once a month
- + **This letter-writing relationship is not about romance.** Please be respectful of this relationship for it is a friendship during your time in prison or jail. **You will be removed** from the program if you encourage anything beyond friendship.
- + **Do not ask your writer to send money, favors, or, material things.**
- + **We do not allow visits or phone calls or exchange photos.** This program is meant for support by letters.
- + **Do not ask your writer to become involved in your legal matters or your case.** This includes writing letters to parole officers, parole board, attorneys, or donations of money to your cause.
- + **No Photographs** will be exchanged between the writer and you.

