

The Call

From Matthew we are called to help those who are hungry, strangers, sick, naked, thirsty, or in prison. "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" (Matthew 25:40)

The Need

There are thirteen state prisons in all of New Jersey; twelve of these prisons are within the Diocese of New Jersey. In addition to these prisons, each of the fifteen counties in the Diocese has its own jail and many municipalities have their own jails as well.

As of June 30, 2008, there were 1,610,584 individuals imprisoned in the United States.

You Can Help

1. Pray for those in prisons, their families, and for those who minister to them.
2. Organize a Prison Ministry in your faith community, which might include a Bible Study, a Prayer Service, or book study with the imprisoned men and

women. There is an approval process, which will include a background check, a completed application, and an educational class or video presentation.

3. Get in touch with the Chaplain of a Correctional Facility and see what their needs are within the prison. You or your ministry group may be able to donate items such as Bibles, rosaries, Christmas toys for children, toiletries, etc.

4. Gather greeting cards to donate the prisoners via the Chaplain in a Correctional Facility. Cards would be remade for use by prisoners.

5. Future activities for your group might include the following: Angel Tree Ministry*, leading a Kairos Retreat for prisoners, fund raising for children's camps whose parents are inmates, being a pen pal with prisoners, shawl ministry, mentoring, and craft classes for inmates.

*A national organization that gathers toys for the children of the imprisoned



More Information

The Diocesan web page for prison ministry offers a myriad of information about how you can become involved in the Ministry to the Imprisoned in the Diocese of New Jersey.

www.newjersey.anglican.org/outreach/prison/index.html

Some information you will find there is:

- Location of New Jersey prisons
- Who to contact at the prisons
- The difference between a jail and a prison
- Ideas on how to minister to the imprisoned
- Leaflets for insertion into your church's service bulletins
- Prayers for you, your congregation, or for use with inmates
- Testimonials from individuals who minister to the imprisoned
- How to begin a prison ministry
- Answers to frequently asked questions about the prisons in New Jersey

Diocesan Committee

Ministry to the Imprisoned

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The Diocesan Committee is ready and willing to help any faith community who is interested in beginning a Prison Ministry. Please contact **Deacon Johnine Byrer** or any of the committee members to begin the process.

The Diocese of New Jersey

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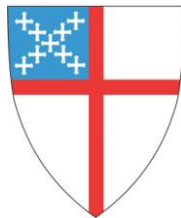
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Prison Ministry Web Page

www.newjersey.anglican.org/outreach/prison



The Diocese of New Jersey

Ministry

to the

Imprisoned

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

Mathew 25:36

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