



Where are the Catholics? How do we respond?

The Facts

Bureau of Justice Statistics reveal a staggering 2.2 million people incarcerated in our local, state and federal prisons.

Non-Catholic volunteers outnumber Catholic volunteers by nearly 40-1.

Dismas Ministry reaches between 12,000 and 15,000 inmates a year in over 950 jails and prisons in 43 states. This same area also includes 116 dioceses.

Dismas Ministry has created a network of over 650 priests, deacons, sisters and lay people who are quietly going about prison outreach in their localities without any fanfare.

Why are the Catholic shelves often empty in prison chapel libraries?

Pray...

- Take some time to thoughtfully and prayerfully reflect on scripture, Luke 23: 39-43 and Matthew 25: 31-46. to help while you discern and discover if prison ministry is right for you.

Learn...

- Read and study the statement of the Catholic Bishops of the United States on Criminal Justice, *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration*.
- Review Dismas Ministry's *Messengers of Hope* training resource and DVD (available at www.dismasministry.org/ACT).
- Research other prison outreach organizations.
- See the Resource section of www.dismasministry.org
- Check with your local diocese for information about prison ministry.

Act...

- If you already have a prison ministry in place, please share information about it with us (see "Share" below).
- Form a jail or prison outreach.
- Pray for victims and their families; reach out to them and form a support group.
- Pray for the families of inmates; reach out to them and form a support group.
- Help support Dismas Ministry's national prison outreach with a donation.

Share...

- Help create a national Catholic prison ministry network.
- Let Dismas Ministry know if you have a prison outreach already in place.
- Respond using the enclosed postcard or go to www.dismasministry.org/ACT to fill out our on-line form.



Remember me.
Luke 23:42

Dismas Ministry

A National Catholic Prison outreach
providing free scriptures, faith and
prayer resources to inmates.

Pray... Learn... Act... Share...

Connect with Dismas Ministry to learn more.
www.dismasministry.org



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