

JOM

JAIL & OUTREACH MINISTRY

**Oakland County MI
Jail Chaplaincy****Winter -Spring 2011
Volume 1 Number 2**

JOM Chaplain's Corner

Blessings on you and your families and community as we begin this New Year of 2011. During this season of giving thanks, we remember you and your generosity to Jail and Outreach Ministry. The Oakland County Jail is the only institution for incarcerated adults in Oakland County. Oakland County does not have a prison.

PACKAGE OF HOPE - At this holiday time, your support to this ministry is key to our project to give a "Package of Hope" in the name of the faith community to 1600 inmates in the Oakland County Jail.

PRUDI HILLERT -Thanks to Prudi Hillert for 30 years of support and organizing the Jail Project. Almost a hundred volunteers gather during the week to prepare the "Hope Package" for the inmates. One of the items in the package is three stamped Christmas cards, as well as, a bible inspirational prayers, and personal hygiene items.

CARDS OF HOPE- In December 2010, a mom, dad, and daughter were part of the group preparing the package. They came to this event at the jail for the first time. Last year, their son and brother was an inmate in the jail. He sent the stamped Christmas cards from the package to his family. His family holds the cards close to their hearts. At the time, no one knew that 2009 would be his last Christmas. They treasure the cards and words of love received from their son and brother on those cards. Their son was in a cell that had a bible sharing each evening. Their family has great comfort in how their son grew in faith while incarcerated, as well as, the fact that he could share his heart felt words of love and care for them through the Christmas cards received in a package at the jail. Special thanks to Trinity Missionary Baptist for 1000 stamped cards. **HOLIDAY CHOIRS**

Choirs and musicians shared their voices and music in the evening in every section of the jail

CHRISTMAS FOR THE CHILDREN- PACKAGE OF JOY- You provided Christmas food and gifts to almost one hundred families of survivors and offenders.

EASTER-SUMMER CAMP-BACKPACKS

In the coming year we will be encouraging children at Easter to think about summer camp and to visit us in August for a Backpack of Care to get ready for School. Your support is needed for all these projects. See enclosed flyer for more information.

By Peggy Devaney, IHM & Martha Limbaugh



Sister Peggy expresses thanks to the CCW as Betty Rizzo stops in to personally deliver cards



Volunteers prepare package at the Jail for inmates



Family & friends with package prepared for 1600 men and women in Oakland County Jail.



Don Limbaugh, Joe Gonzales, jr, Tony Brown, Martha Limbaugh, and all of us say: **Thank you from our hearts for your support of the Jail and Outreach Projects of this Ministry.**

Jail Holiday Project pictures by Janice Milimaki

What is the meaning of Jail and Outreach Ministry becoming a 501 (c) 3 tax exempt organization?

Jail and Outreach Ministry is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. This means that Jail and Outreach Ministry is able to provide donors with tax-deductions for contributions and donations.

As many will recall, in order to sustain our good works in jail ministry after the elimination of all salaries and operational expenses last year, we decided to form a non profit. Like many other larger jails in Michigan, we now have our own non profit to promote and sustain Jail and Outreach Ministry in Oakland County, Michigan.

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

This recognition by the IRS allows Jail and Outreach Ministry to apply for grants and donations from companies, public sources, private trusts, and foundations as well as individual donations. To date, we have received grants from:

- Sisters IHM -Monroe Michigan
- Filmer Foundation
- Meijers
- O'Neill Foundation

plus, many churches and individual donations. In addition, we thank JOM volunteers for their time and talent in serving the poor and marginalized in your name.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES?

If you know of a grant opportunity Jail and Outreach Ministry should look into, or, if you like to create grants, please contact Martha or Peggy: 248-858-5475 or 248-338-9310 or email pegdev@comcast.net.

Thank you!

By Erika McNamara & Peggy Devaney, IHM

Go Ask Mary!!!!

by Doug Zande and Pierre Flajole



Go ask Mary, Mary Hennig, a young, energetic and engaging 90 year old Oakland County resident, and widowed mother of nine children. She is now an active jail/prison minister, and an inspiration to other chaplains, volunteers and people searching for a way to serve. Mary shows how one can be “a light in the dark” to the imprisoned. Not overcome by fear or peer pressure, Mary's interest became “sparked” in 1990 when she accompanied the Christian service coordinator from her church to the former women's prison camp near Clarkston, MI. to assist with a prayer service. She relates that upon meeting and sharing with the women at the prison, she came to realize that she shared the same search for Christ, and the daily struggle to accept His forgiveness.

Shortly afterward, Mary saw an ad for Death Row Forum and subscribed to the publication. This led to a letter writing ministry to the imprisoned, her first pen pal being a man named Jerry on death row at the prison in Michigan City, Indiana. Mary reflects, “*It's fun at first, pain is involved, as you learn to love them*”. Although she is limited to only driving near home, Mary relates that she was able to visit Jerry 25



Mary at her “work area” with Pierre

times over a period of 10 years while he was on death row. Her pain is evident as she related her last visit with Jerry just two days prior to his death at the hands of the State of Indiana in 2001.

family and friends are finally coming to the realization that **she does have a special calling for this ministry.**

Just last spring, her friend Scott was released from a Texas prison. Mary was surprised to hear of his intent to visit her here in Michigan and do some chores around her house, as he is very handy with all kinds of tools. Mary's children and her church family expressed some uncertainty with this plan. However, it actually worked out quite well as her church “sprang” for a motel and Scott spent a couple of days with her, helping her get her home and garden ready for winter. Mary states that her

A few of Mary's current activities are helping JOM at Christmas, letter writing to 11 prisoners (she calls them her friends), staying informed on prison issues, answering occasional phone calls from inmates or releasees, and miscellaneous mail writing on issues. She is in almost constant contact with Darrell, sentenced to life in prison in Michigan, but recently proven innocent by the **Michigan Innocence Project** who assisted in his appeals.

Some of Mary's reflections are:

“*It's been a wonderful thing. I think I got more out of this than I ever gave,*”.....”*It's an honor that they- the inmates- write me.*” It was evident to us interviewers that Mary was not personally concerned about what “good works” she was doing. What brought joy to her eyes was reading a poem or letter from one of her friends (an inmate). **GO MARY, GO!!!! If you want to join Mary in writing inmates, let us know at 248-858-5475 or 248-338-9310.**

An inspiration to other chaplains and volunteers and to those “searching” for something, Mary shows how one can be “a light in the dark” to the imprisoned.

“It's an honor that they- the inmates- write me.”



Mary with artwork from Robert Eagle of Oklahoma

Sister Helen Prejean at U of M-”Choose Life”

Sister Helen Prejean Speaks at U of M : Choose Life

Recently, a few of our Oakland County Jail Chaplaincy volunteers went to U of M to hear Sister Helen Prejean. This articulate author of **“Dead Man Walking”**, encourages Michiganders to continue to say “no” to the death penalty, and, to protect life in all its forms. For many, this is a difficult stance to take.

Did you know that:

*New Jersey and New Mexico did away with capital punishment.

*Sister Prejean helped to influence Pope John Paul to take a stance against the death penalty.

*In her new Book, **“The Death of Innocents,”** Sister Prejean raises the question “What if we were executing innocent men?”

*Eight southern states account for 80% of the executions.

Sister Prejean states: “For 20 years I have been visiting people on death row, and I have accompanied six human beings to their death.” As each was being executed, “I have told them to look at me. I want them to see a loving face when they die. I want my face to carry the love that tells them that they and every one of us are worth more than our most terrible acts”

Sister Prejean encourages each person, when dealing with the unwanted/the criminal, not to let the love in your heart to be overcome

by a spirit of vengeance. by Pierre Flajole



**“I want my face
to carry the love
that tells them
that they
and every one of us
are worth more
than our
most terrible acts”**

Sister Helen Prejean



Louisiana State Prison

Meet Mary Beth and Life Recovery... “Small Gift-Big Difference”

Mary Beth Schneiderman is a volunteer in Oakland County Jail in Pontiac, MI. Over time Mary Beth has become quite aware that many of the incarcerated are suffering from drug and/or alcohol addiction. Some have said that in their childhood they were hurt emotionally and /or physically and this abuse has wounded and scarred their opinion of themselves. Drugs and alcohol provide an escape from those negative feelings..

A resource that Mary Beth finds to be most helpful is called: The Life Recovery Bible from **Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, Wheaton IL 60189**
www.tyndale.com.

Through donations, Mary Beth provides the Bible to many who are willing to struggle with their addictions. The twelve steps of AA are adapted and used in the devotional reading plan of the bible. As stated in the preface of the Life Recovery Bible: **“The Bible is the greatest book on recovery ever written.”** The Scriptures pertain to life issues and life recovery principles. It is a valuable tool filled with useful helps for recovery. Inmates have made the following statements: **“The Life Recovery Bible has changed my life.” ...“The Life Recovery Bible has been very helpful, giving me increased knowledge, wisdom, forgiveness, hope, and encouragement during this difficult time. I know all of these things are key to live a life of sobriety from alcohol.”**

Life Recovery Bible Donations

If you would like to donate the **Life Recovery Bible**, contact Mary Beth at 248-858-5475.

All religious materials are donated.

Resource Materials for all Faith Groups

If you would like to share other resource materials for various faith groups, or to volunteer, please call 248-858-5475.

Sentencing Project News

January 3, 2011 (Boston Globe)

A Felon’s Forward Pass

Writing in the *Boston Globe*, columnist Joan Venocchi notes that compared to football star Michael Vick, *“the world is less kind to other ex-cons”* in terms of getting a second chance following a criminal conviction.

“The stigma of serving time for a felony slams most doors shut, especially doors that lead to employment,” she writes. Looking at the ongoing restrictions on employment, housing, and other benefits, Marc Mauer comments that

“You pay your debt to society, but for most people, this debt continues throughout the course of your lifetime.” (This article is copied from [The Sentencing Project](http://www.sentencingproject.org) website.)

Winter –Spring 2011

Clergy Clearance and Visiting Oakland County Jail

Clergy Clearance

The jail visitation desk uses the Directory of Churches prepared by the Metropolitan Christian Council as a basis for clergy entering the jail to visit a member of your faith community. Changes need to be updated through the Council 313-962-0340 or e-mail: Councilweb@aol.com.

How/Why to get listed in the Directory of Churches ?

Many denominations and communions update all their church listings annually.

Other faith groups and denominations have to do the updating individually before October.

This usually becomes urgent when you are trying to visit a member in jail. Plan ahead. 313-962-0340

Tips on Security

- Send materials directly from *publisher*.
- No staples or hard back books allowed
- All Religious materials need to be cleared and delivered through the *Chaplains' Office*
- Bring *Picture ID*
- Be prepared to place *all personal items* in a locker

Clergy visiting a family member or relative

If you are visiting family/relatives, you are required to visit as a FAMILY MEMBER in a Jail Setting within

FAMILY times and guidelines.

248-858-1800 Prisoner Information

Professional Clergy listed in Directory of Churches

Family Visitation is not the same as a professional visit with a member of your local church / faith community. If you are listed in the Directory of Churches you will only need to:

- check on inmate location
- clergy times for visiting.
Call 248-858-1800 Prisoner Information
- Picture ID is mandatory.

Professional Clergy not listed in Directory of Churches

Clergy / Faith Representatives needing to visit and NOT LISTED in the Directory of Churches need to

Contact: Martha Limbaugh and / or the Chaplains' Office
248-858-5475

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DIRECTORY

Chaplains' Office– OCSO

1201 North Telegraph Bldg. 10 East

Pontiac MI 48341

248-858-5475

248-975-4390 Fax

Prisoner Information and

Family Visitation Times

WWW.OAKGOV.COM/SHERIFF

Or 248-858-1800

Jail Counseling

248-858-1731

JOM OutreachCenter

46352 Woodward Ave

PO Box 1366

Pontiac MI 48343-1366

248-338-9310

248-338-2695 Fax

Website(under construction)

E-Mails

Martha Limbaugh

248-858-5475 Jail Chaplaincy

viersm@oakgov.com

Peggy Devaney, IHM

248-770-5198

pegdev@comcast.net

pdevaney@jail-outreach-ministry.com

248-338-9310 JOM Outreach

DONATIONS/

CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

JOM or Jail and Outreach Ministry

Or PUMP

c/o Peggy Devaney, IHM

46352 Woodward Ave

PO Box 1366

Pontiac MI 48343-1366

OR

c/o Martha Limbaugh

1201 North Telegraph # 10 East

Pontiac MI 48341