

Manitoba Catholic Prison Ministry

"...in prison and you came to see me."
Mt 25:36(CE)

To support and develop all aspects of Catholic prison ministry in the province.

Crime is a violation of people and relationships. It creates obligations to make things right.

Justice involves the victim, the offender, and the community in search for solutions which promote repair, reconciliation and reassurance

Howard Zehr

"Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoner."

Hebrew 13:3

Services:

Correctional institutions provide for a range of religious programs and services under the direction of a chaplain. Institutional clearance is mandatory for all institutions. For more information, please either check with the institution itself or contact this committee at prisons2014by@gmail.com

Chaplains in Manitoba, through their faith-based presence, provide a haven of peace for all residents and staff by receiving them in a spirit of generous love and acceptance and by providing the kind of hospitality that will foster healing peace and a sense of hope. If you feel that you can contribute to this vision, you are encouraged to directly contact the correctional centre chaplain.

"To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you."

Louis B. Smedes

What programs exist?

Chapel Visiting programs – Some of the institutions have chapel programs that allow visitors to attend mass and afterwards speak to the inmates over coffee. For example, Stony Mountain Institution has a mass every Saturday evening and welcomes regular volunteers. Federal clearance is mandatory.

The Winnipeg Remand Center which is a pre-trial detention centre located in downtown Winnipeg, has fellowship sessions for the men on Saturday evenings and for the women on Friday evenings. Provincial clearance is mandatory. For more information, please either check with the institution itself or contact the chair of this committee at prisons2014by@gmail.com

Next Step prison ministry - A peer support program for released offenders, who have demonstrated commitment to their own rehabilitation during their time of incarceration, and, nearing their time of release, are aware they will need support if their efforts to re-enter the community are to succeed. Next Step is founded on a belief that there is potential for good in each person and that every person has the capacity to change. In an increasingly interdependent world, Next Step models the conviction and ideal that we are indeed called to become our "brother's keeper".

Quixote House – A mixed community of Jesuits and parolees. It was founded on the premise that released offenders have a right to decent, affordable housing, and practical and moral support to assist them in their transition back into the Community. Like Next Step, it models the conviction and ideal that we are ALL in this journey together.

Massie House Apartments Project

"A clean, affordable housing initiative, in conjunction with the Next Step Peer Support Program for Released Offenders"

Named after Fr. Brian Massie, SJ, a dedicated prison chaplain and supporter who sadly passed away in 2009, the Massie House Apartments provide a solution to some of the issues facing Quixote House residents.

Within the context of low vacancy rates for apartments in Winnipeg, the Massie House Apartment Project offers a safe haven for those who still feel they need more time and support in establishing themselves financially and emotionally beyond Quixote House. Conveniently situated next door to Quixote House, this one-time "crack-house" was rebuilt and transformed into four one-bedroom, self-contained apartments. These are rented at reasonable rates to former Quixote House alumni, all of whom are former participants in the Next Step Program. Residents maintain some contact with Quixote House and serve as good examples for men newer to the program that may need to see successful models to emulate.

Tri-diocesan Prison Ministry



Archdiocese of Saint-Boniface



Archdiocese of Winnipeg



Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg

Mission Statement

Develop and sustain prison ministry in the province as well as promote restorative justice in a manner consistent with the Church's teachings and the need for a safe, supportive and accountable environment for those upon release.

What you need to do to volunteer!

Have an open heart; believe that you can make a difference in the life of your brother or sister in Christ. If volunteering to visit prisoners in a correctional institution you will be required to complete a "clearance" form which can be facilitated through the institution's chaplaincy office.

Contact a Representative: prisons2014by@gmail.com