



PJM Newsletter

January/February 2019

Update Letter

Dear PJM volunteers and friends,

Our annual Christmas Drive was extremely successful, because of you! This year we collected over 2,500 socks, thousands of travel size toiletries and hundreds of reading glasses. In addition to those items, we received numerous monetary donations which helped purchase rice krispie treats, candy canes, rosaries, bookmarks and pencils. During the second week of Advent, we sorted, packaged and distributed these items to six county jails, three juvenile detention centers and six prisons. We delivered 142 bags to our juvenile detention centers. They contained bookmarks, candy canes, pencils, toothbrushes and numerous travel size hygiene items. We also delivered 205 gift bags to those attending Catholic services in our prisons. These bags included small prayer books, bookmarks, rosaries and how to pray the rosary brochures. We then delivered 2,500 socks and 2,550 rice krispie treats to our county jails. Throughout this next year, we will continue to supply our county jails with reading glasses and toiletries as needed.

We are grateful for you and the following 23 parishes who participated in this drive:

- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Belmont
- Blessed Sacrament, Grand Rapids
- Basilica of St. Adalbert, Grand Rapids
- Dominican Center at Marywood
- Holy Trinity, Comstock Park
- Holy Family, Sparta
- Holy Name of Jesus, Wyoming
- Our Lady of Consolation, Rockford
- Our Lady of Grace, Muskegon
- SS. Peter and Paul, Grand Rapids
- St. Francis de Sales, Muskegon
- St. Francis Xavier, Conklin
- St. Jude, Grand Rapids
- St. Luke University, Allendale
- St. Mary Magdalene, Kentwood
- St. Mary, Lowell
- St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception, Muskegon
- St. Mary, Spring Lake
- St. Patrick, Parnell
- St. Pius X, Grandville
- St. Stephen, Grand Rapids
- St. Thomas the Apostle, Grand Rapids
- St. Thomas the Apostle, Muskegon

This drive would not be possible without you! Thank you for all your efforts to make this drive successful year after year. These donations help to remind those incarcerated that they have not been forgotten and are always in our prayers.

Please join us on Monday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Cathedral Square Center for our 2nd Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. We appreciate you and all the good work you do and would like to thank you with a special evening of food, fellowship and prayer. The evening will include guest speaker and program volunteer, Father Joachim Lally, CSP. Father Lally will speak on the spirituality of the mission. This event is free for all volunteers and their guest. To view the invitation click here: [2nd Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner](#). Please RSVP by Monday, January 28.

The Prison and Jail Ministry offered a training for GROW (Guiding Returning Citizens to Our World) volunteers on Tuesday, Nov. 13. GROW is an outreach ministry of the Diocese of Grand Rapids for those returning from incarceration. The trained GROW volunteers will now welcome returning citizens to their parish communities as needed. They will welcome them by accompanying them to Mass, providing information on appropriate opportunities to become involved in their parish and introducing them to the pastor and parish staff. This outreach effort is important because many men and women being released are looking for a welcoming faith community, but do not know how to begin this process. GROW helps guide people returning from incarceration to a church home and helps meet their spiritual needs. In addition to guiding returned citizens to a church home, GROW also helps educate parish communities through a panel discussion titled, Why Welcome All? This panel travels to various parishes to educate their community on reentry. This panel includes a returned citizen, a prison reentry and parole liaison officer, and the coordinator for Offenders Success for the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Upcoming Panel Discussions:

Monday, Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m. - St. Francis de Sales, Norton Shores

Thursday, Jan. 24 at 6:30 p.m. - St. Mary Magdalen, Kentwood

Please remember to read this newsletter completely. There is important information and resources included in the team updates and newsletter inserts.

From our families to yours, Elizabeth and I wish you a blessed Christ-filled Christmas and Happy New Year!

Peace,
Tricia



Team Schedules

Carson City Team

[Carson City East and West](#)

Ionia Team

[Bellamy Creek \(IBC\)](#)

[Richard A. Handlon \(MTU\)](#)

[Michigan Reformatory \(RMI\)](#)

Kent County Team

[Kent County Jail Communion Service](#)

[Kent County Jail Bible Study](#)

[Kent County Juvy](#)

Muskegon Team

[EC Brooks \(LRF\)](#)

[Muskegon Correctional \(MCF\)](#)

[Muskegon County Jail](#)

Newaygo Team

[Newaygo County Jail](#)

Ottawa County Team

[Ottawa County Jail](#)

[Ottawa County Juvy](#)

Resources for Juvenile Detention Centers



[*Catholic Icing Website*](#)

[*Shepherds Come to Greet Jesus*](#)

[*John Baptizes Jesus*](#)

Carson City Team

As you know, Chaplain Steve Adamson recently accepted a position as special activities coordinator for the MDOC. During this time of transition, Gerald Erskine has been appointed as the acting chaplain and volunteer coordinator for Carson City. When you see Gerald, please introduce yourself to him. Once a new chaplain is hired, we will share that information with you.

[**Carson City Team Contact List**](#)

Ionia Team

In November, Deacon Candidates John Teeples and Michael Hollern visited Bellamy Creek. John went in with Jim Rademaker on Nov. 21 and Michael went in with Tricia on Nov. 28. They will now discern if they are being called to serve this ministry.

The Level IV Bible Study at the Reformatory has almost completed Introduction to the Bible and will begin the Gospel of Luke soon. The materials for the Gospel of Luke will be sent to the Chaplain and bible study volunteers before the end of the year. Please contact our office if you have any questions.

[Ionia Team Contact List](#)

Kent County Team

Thank you to those who helped fill Christmas bags for the inmates at Kent County Jail on Wednesday, December 19. With the help of our generous parishes throughout our Diocese we were able to donate 1,300 socks and Rice KrispieTreats to Kent County Jail.

We would like to welcome Deacon Aspirants Greg Sokolowski, Michael Hollern and Thu Le to Kent County Jail. These men are in the process of shadowing a few of our veteran volunteers. If you happen to see them, please feel free to say hello and introduce yourself. We are very grateful to have their support in this ministry!

[Kent County Team Contact List](#)

Below is the Kent County Bible Request Form. Use this when an inmate lets you know they have a release date and would like a Bible. Have them fill this out and we will mail a Bible directly to their home address.

[Kent County Bible Request Form](#)

Muskegon Team

On Saturday, Nov. 10, Bishop David Walkowiak visited Muskegon Correctional. We were happy to have numerous volunteers to join us. During this visit Bishop Walkowiak celebrated Mass and heard confessions. He will continue to visit prisons through the coming year. We hope to schedule a visit to Brooks sometime this summer. Once this visit is scheduled, we will invite all Brooks volunteers to join us. Look for more information coming soon.

On Thursday, Nov. 29, Deacon Jim Hessler and Deacon Candidates Dan Esch, Tom Roberts and Greg Sokolowski joined me for our Level IV and Level II Communion Services. Brian Picuch will shadow Deacon Leo on Thursday, Dec. 20. They will now discern if they are being called to serve this ministry.

[Muskegon County Team Contact List](#)

Newaygo Team

Father Steve Geerling is now available and cleared for clergy visits at Newaygo County Jail. Father Steve has graciously offered to visit on Fridays to hear confessions and bring Communion to those requesting it. Thank you Father Steve!

Ottawa Team

Veteran volunteer Tom Biros is now cleared at Juvy! Tom has been serving the adult facility since 2007 and is excited to serve at the youth facility also. New volunteer Allison Hawkins will also begin serving at the Juvenile Facility. Allison is the Youth Coordinator at St. Mary Magdalen Parish. They will begin to shadow in January until they feel comfortable serving alone. We are excited to welcome them to the Juvy team!

Ottawa County Team Contact List

Below is the Ottawa County Bible Request Form. Use this when an inmate lets you know they have a release date and would like a Bible. Have them fill this out and we will mail a Bible directly to their home address.

Ottawa County Bible Request Form

Communion Service Sheets

January

[1-6-19 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[1-6-19 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

[1-13-19 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[1-13-19 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

[1-20-19 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[1-20-19 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

[1-27-19 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[1-27-19 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

February

[2-3-19 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[2-3-19 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

[2-10-19 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[2-10-19 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

[2-17-19 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[2-17-19 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

[2-24-19 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[2-24-19 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

Newsletter Inserts

"Raise the Age" Policies Fall Just Short in 2017-2018

A CLEAR way forward

***Need help with your reflection time?
Check out the websites below***

www.preacherexchange.com

www.scborromeo.org

www.homilies.net

www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org

PJM YouTube Channel

Prison and Jail Ministry Diocese of Grand Rapids Facebook