

Read More About the April 2023 Restorative Justice Conference

During the conference, attended by more than 150 people, we listened and were inspired by [Jim's journey through addiction and incarceration to redemption](#). We also listened to powerful stories from our incarcerated friends during [Bridging the Gap, Shaping the Restorative Narrative](#). Through their stories, our incarcerated friends shared how various programming has been restorative, transforming and has radically changed them. It is their hope that these stories will inspire and encourage you to begin implementing restorative practices in your home, schools, churches, community and prison. I encourage you to listen to each of their stories until the final and very impactful story. I am certain you will be grateful you did!

[Caitlin Morneau](#) from Catholic Mobilizing Network spoke to us live virtually for [Harm, Healing, and Human Dignity: The Invitation to Restorative Practices for Individuals, Churches, and Communities](#). We were inspired by her work and challenged to continue to look for more ways we can live restoratively and implement these practices in our every day lives.

During the afternoon panel discussion, [Mobilizing Restorative Justice: Enacting the paradigm for healing and human dignity](#), with Nathan Johnson, the Honorable Joseph Rossi, and Angie Sprank, we learned how each one of us has the opportunity to ignite change through restorative encounters while they answered questions prepared for them from the men in prison.

In addition, we had the opportunity to answer questions from the men at MTU and, during a silent auction, individuals had the opportunity to bid on artwork created by our incarcerated friends. We ended the day hearing once again from the men at MTU during their [closing remarks](#) and the [presentation](#) of an unexpected gift from the Restorative Justice Club at MTU. Mark Hartman, former MTU Restorative Justice Club member presented program director, Tricia Worrell with a beautiful hand-crafted mission award which left me speechless, in tears and overwhelmed with gratitude for our volunteers, our incarcerated brothers and this beautiful work we are blessed to do. Bishop Walkowiak then sent us forth on this mission with a prayer and a blessing.