

Message from Sr. Rita Mary Harwood, SND

“When I was in prison, you visited Me.”

Welcome to the web site for the Diocesan Ministry to the Incarcerated for the Diocese of Cleveland. We hope you will take a few minutes to browse through the contents of the web site. Countless men and women of our Diocese give their time and talent as ministers to the incarcerated, walking with inmates and their families through difficult times. Their hearts also hold in prayer the victims of crime and their families. It's important to remember that each person's story is unique and every story may not have a happy ending. But many do – lives that are changed through the power of God's love and compassion.

If you are browsing this web site because you have a loved one who is incarcerated, may we extend to you much hope and courage as you share in your loved one's loneliness and confusion. In the section entitled, *List of Prison and Jail Locations*, you will find the names and phone numbers for contact persons for ministry at each of the correctional institutions that are located in our eight-county diocese. We pray that our good and gracious God will be ever present to you and your loved one during these difficult times.

In the section entitled, *Sharing the Good News*, you will find brief stories that have been shared by those who work with the incarcerated. They tell of assistance offered and gratefully received; of lives touched by compassion and forgiveness; of feelings of despair lifted and transformed into hope and promise.

For those of you who may wish to volunteer with the ministry to the incarcerated, please see the section entitled, *How Can I Get Involved?* You may have been a victim of a crime in the past and have experienced some of the confusion of the justice system. Or you could be a person with a deep desire to share God's love and mercy with others. There are many ways you can assist your brothers and sisters in Christ through the Diocesan Ministry to the Incarcerated.

Thank you for visiting our web site. This Ministry is dedicated to sharing God's love and mercy to those who desperately need it. Please share this web site; there is someone waiting who needs hope – and needs a friend to extend kindness and compassion. Through Christ we can do all things and in Christ's name much healing can be accomplished.

Sincerely yours,

Sr. Rita Mary Harwood, SND

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Secretary, Parish Life and Development - Diocese of Cleveland