



Prison Ministry in the Parish

Presenter: Bishop Gary Janak, JCL



“Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’ He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’” (Mt. 25: 44-45).



The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy



Feed the Hungry
Give Drink to the Thirsty
Clothe the Naked
Shelter the Homeless
Visit the Sick
Visit the Imprisoned
Bury the Dead



**What the imprisoned
taught me about the
Corporal Works of Mercy.**

A Statistical Profile

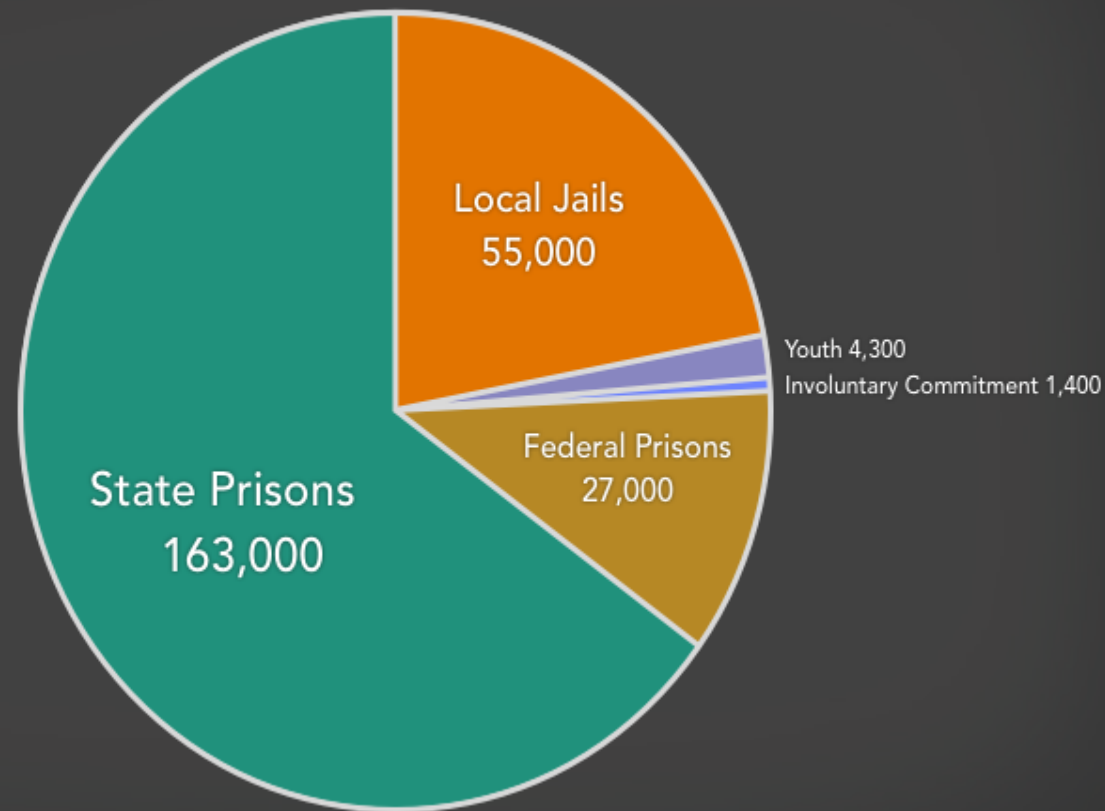


- Since 1983, the prison custody population has increased 329%. In 2018, there were **151,213 people** in the Texas prison system. The rate of incarceration in America has expanded more than fourfold, and the United States leads the world in the number of those who are imprisoned.
- Texas is first in the number of executions carried out in the United States since 1976.
- Texas was the first state to carry out an execution by lethal injection on December 7, 1982.
- On any given day, more than 48,000 youth are incarcerated in the United States.



How many Texas residents are locked up and where?

251,000 of Texas's residents are locked up in various kinds of facilities





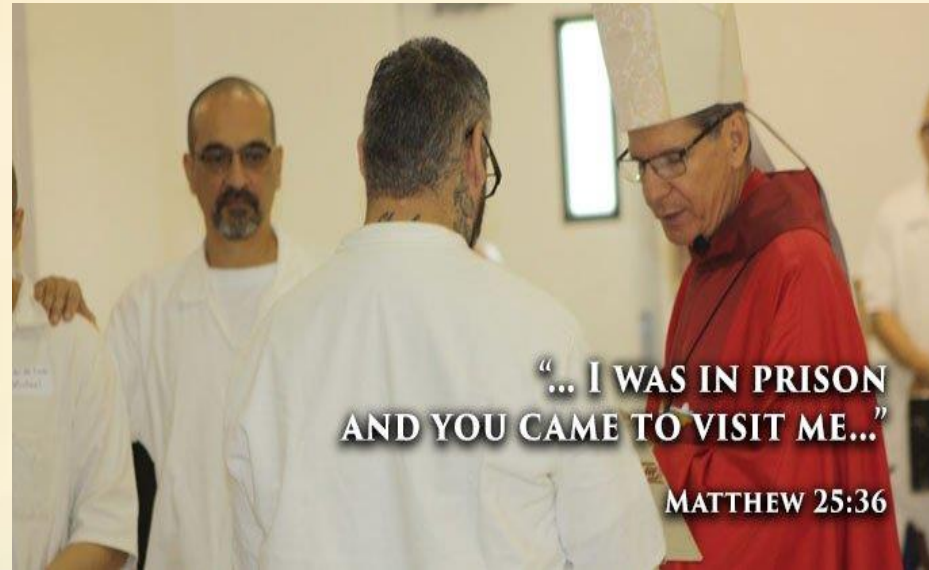
INCARCERATION RATES

COMPARING TEXAS
AND FOUNDING NATO COUNTRIES



Incarceration rates per 100,000 population

Source: <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2018.html>



“... I WAS IN PRISON
AND YOU CAME TO VISIT ME...”

MATTHEW 25:36

“We are more than labels”.

- Pope Francis

How Can a Parish Participate in Ministry to the Incarcerated?



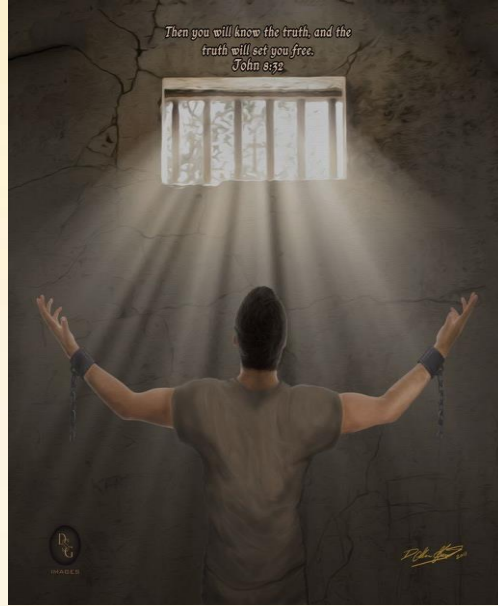
- Become informed.
- Begin praying daily for the incarcerated in the parish community.
- Solicit the assistance of the Parish Pastoral Council, and other parish-based organizations, to determine if a jail, prison or juvenile facility is located within the parish boundaries.
- Become familiar with websites and organizations associated with Prison Ministry.
- Coordinate with other parishes and organizations to assist in Prison Ministry.
- Provide resources and assistance to those in Prison Ministry, such as Kolbe Prison Ministries.

How Can a Parish Participate in Ministry to the Incarcerated?



- Encourage parishioners to become trained and skilled in Prison Ministry.
- Learn more about post-incarceration programs in the area, to assist those released from incarceration.
- Seek information from websites offering assistance with Prison Ministry, such as: www.catholicprisonministries.org or www.dismasministry.org, Jail & Prison Ministry 101, from Catholic Prison Ministries, and from the Criminal Justice Ministry of the Archdiocese of San Antonio

Life Beyond Prison



“Solidarity calls us to insist on responsibility and seek alternatives that do not simply punish, but rehabilitate, heal and restore”.

USCCB, *Responsibility and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice*

Welcoming All Into Our Parishes

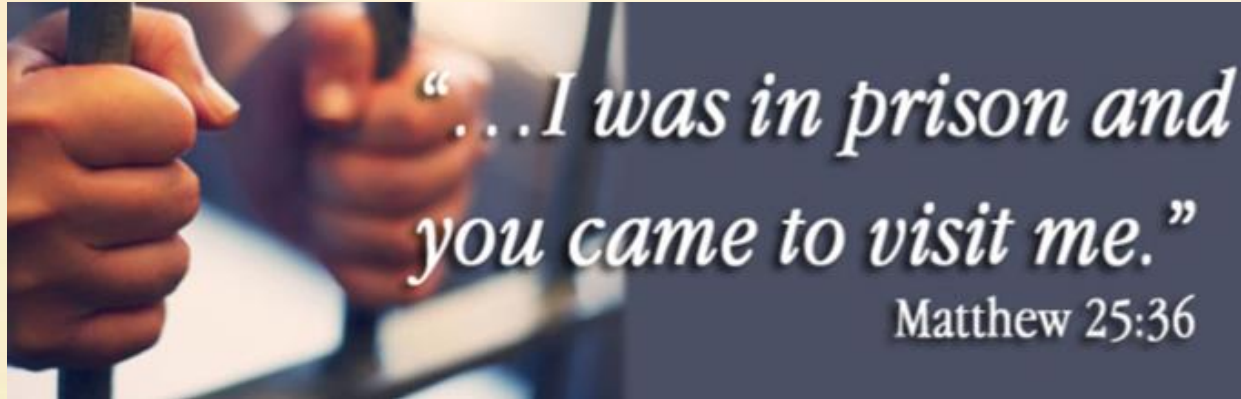


“If hope is closed in a cell, there is no future for society. Never deprive one of the right to start over”.

- Pope Francis

- Welcome those who have been incarcerated into our parishes.
- Assist them with rejoining society.
- Find ways to assist them with needed resources for job interviews, etc.
- Provide them with spiritual nourishment in our parish programs.

Closing Remarks



“We forget that we are all sinners and often, without being aware of it, we too, are prisoners.”

- Pope Francis