



TCPM  
Twin Cities Prison Ministry  
PO Box 22263  
St Paul, MN 55122

December 31, 2020

Merry Christmas and prayers for a safe, healthy new year filled with peace, love and joy!

We are so grateful for your prayerful and financial support this last year. In retrospect, I'd like to share some of the activities in which we were able to share God's love and presence (in spite of COVID in 2020) because of your generosity of spirit and financial giving.

As the prisons shut down to all visitors, including families and volunteers, we were invited by Chaplain Martin Shanahan, - MCF Stillwater to provide 30 minutes of Christian programming that he would share with the men in Stillwater. We had previously been in touch with the **Jesuit Restorative Justice Initiative** about their 4-hour monthly retreats based on Ignatian Meditation and the Gospel of the week. Fr Miguel Kennedy, Founder & Executive Director and Rob Garcia, Asst Exec Director, gave us permission to use their template, which became the foundation for our 30-minute Ignatian meditation videos. We have been sending these DVDs to the nine MN facilities since the middle of October. We have four teams working on them and are scheduled to the end of December 2021.

On November 19, 2020, we were honored to be invited by Deacon Tim Zinda, Archdiocesan Coordinator of Corrections, to make a presentation to participants in the deaconate program at the University of St Thomas about Twin Cities Prison Ministry.

September 19, 2020, Archbishop of the Diocese of St Paul & Minneapolis, Bernard Hebda and the MN Department of Corrections, Paul Schnell were keynote speakers at a virtual and onsite forum that took place at the University of St Thomas, Iverson Center for Faith. We were honored by the openness, clarity and hopeful prospects that both Archbishop Hebda and Commissioner Schell spoke about the future of incarceration in MN. Chaplain Lynda Lee, Lino Lakes, Chaplain Martin Shanahan, Stillwater & Volunteer Coordinator, Elise Gobels participated on a panel discussing their specific facility needs of volunteers. Thank you to the **University of St Thomas, Center for Mission**, for waiving rental fees and to **Catholic Community Foundation** for their financial support of this project and the Ignatian Video Meditation project.

Our other programs continue:

- Pen Pals have doubled
- Revised Prayer Warrior program to start in January. We will send out a monthly meditation on incarceration, to replace the four times a year request for prayer during retreats.
- New holiday letter writing program for volunteers who will commit to writing three letters a year (Easter, Christmas, and birthday) to an inmate after prayerfully writing anonymously to them. There will be no reciprocation with this program.
- fish has continued to meet on a monthly basis by zoom.

Board changes:



*United in Faith, Hope and Love*



- Deacon Mike DeWitte and Gerri Migletz retired at the end of this year. We thank them for their incredible service to those affected by incarceration and to Twin Cities Prison Ministry in particular.
- In 2021, we welcome Fr Stan Sledz and John Rubischko to our board. We look forward to their experience and knowledge to assist Twin Cities Prison Ministry to reach out to those affected by incarceration.
- I will be stepping down as board chair which will be filled by Steve Hawkins, whose compassionate heart and fantastic leadership skills will bring TCPM to reach more people. I will continue on the board as Operations lead.

Our heartfelt thanks to all of our financial donors, some that have come through anonymously from facebook, PayPal, Amazon and our website. We continue to be grateful to the Knights of Columbus, Fr Carey Council #5569, St Joseph's Church, Rosemount, the Order of Malta, American Association, the Catholic Community Foundation and the Archdiocese of St Paul and Minneapolis for their spiritual, and financial support year after year, that gave us the courage to continue to meet God's request to "visit the prisoner" and to provide opportunities for others to be able to do the same.

Most sincere regards,  
 Fay Connors,  
 TCPM Board Chair

