

Faith in Action

at Ss. Faith Hope & Charity



Parishioners involved in Prison Ministry

“Every person is made in the image of God. No life is beyond His reach.”

Fr. Mark Link, S.J.

In 1992, **Bob Foley**, who passed away in 2014, **co-founded Victory 2000, a prison ministry** which began as an extension of Vision 2000, started by Fr. Mark Link, S. J. The Vision program is a series of small books based on the common Lectionary readings. **The Victory 2000 Prison Ministry began as a result of a prayer meditation in which twelve men, most from Faith Hope, participated.** These men felt that the prayer program deepened their spiritual lives and that it would be helpful to the imprisoned. They started with a few shipments of books to chaplains in nearby prisons who then distributed them to the inmates. To date, over 750,000 books have been given to inmates of 825 prisons throughout the United States. Countless letters from the chaplains attest to how these books have impacted the spiritual lives of their inmates. To volunteer or donate to this ministry go to: <https://www.victory2000.org/>.

Theresa Croghan is a Justice Ambassador with Prison Fellowship, which “equips Christians to be effective voices that inspire the Church, change the culture, and advance justice that restores”. (<https://www.prisonfellowship.org/>) They help men and women replace the cycle of brokenness that landed them in prison and also advocate for reform and care for prisoners’ families. They believe the Church should lead the way. Theresa says, *“As a Justice Ambassador, writing letters and having Zoom calls with federal lawmakers has been the majority of my work however, there are many other opportunities to help. Why prisoners? They are created in the image and likeness of God and the current system sets up the incarcerated to be released and return to a life of crime. That’s a cycle we have the power to stop. I think if we want a safe, productive society we need to help those who have everything working against them.”* Questions? Contact Theresa at: Theresa.croghan@gmail.com.

Rob Vail has been involved with Kairos Prison Ministry for several years. The Kairos program is a weekend for prisoners that consists of carefully structured talks, meditations, and individual and group activities led by volunteers. **John McEnroe** has also been involved in their retreats. It is an international ministry, serving in 30 countries, which has both a men’s and women’s division. On the women's side they support the families of residents as well as enter prisons. Each state has their own organization for training. Applicants to volunteer must receive approval from their pastor and sit for a review of their intentions before going through the formation process. Rob says, *“The experience helped me understand the servant mindset, which Christ calls us to, as well as how one might carry mercy into a prison”*. It is a powerful experience. For more information go to: <https://www.kairosprisonministry.org/> or contact Rob at ranger17@aol.com.

