



# Remember Me

"A National Catholic Outreach supporting the spiritual lives and rehabilitation of prisoners."

## Serving God by Serving Those in Need



Dan McCarthy, Dismas Ministry Board Member

*By Tyler Curtis*

When Dan McCarthy joined the Dismas Ministry Board of Directors in October 2020, he was already an active volunteer with several organizations throughout Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He retired from Zilber Ltd. in 2018 with the intention of shifting toward service in the community and the Church.

"When I was asked to join the board, I saw it as an opportunity to continue my efforts to make a difference and love my neighbor," said Dan. "I had started to get involved in prison ministry as a pen pal, and began to build an understanding of the challenges associated with this important work of mercy."

Dan has served on numerous boards for social service and neighborhood-based entities. He is currently the co-chair of the Milwaukee Continuum of Care and a trustee with the Public Policy Forum, where he is the former chair of their economic development committee. He continues to be active with the Cathedral Center – a homeless shelter for women and families located in downtown Milwaukee. Dan is also on the Board of the Franciscan Pilgrimage Program, and he is involved with Catholic Relief Services.

Dan is a proud member of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, and he serves as the Milwaukee region's Hospitaller.

"I'm a member of a lay religious order known as The Order of Malta. Our charism is to defend the faith and serve the poor and the sick. Our national association organized a prison ministry pen pal program and shared a lot of information on the challenges

facing the incarcerated as they try and rejoin our society. My social justice background also made me sensitive to how the criminal justice history of our country has been influenced by racial prejudice," said Dan. Continued on page 4

**"Without a groundswell of caring for how the incarcerated are brought back into society, I fear this broken and ineffective system will be perpetuated..."**

## Voices of Prisoners

*"First off, thank you for all you do! I am a survivor of domestic violence and your ministry brought me peace during times of trial and tribulations! What a wonderful ministry."*

~Melissa, a prisoner

*"I absolutely loved this Bible study course, God With Us. This study was effective in teaching the Biblical verses that support the seven sacraments and the traditional version. I enjoyed it and look forward to part two. God Bless."*

~ Misty, a prisoner

**"I was in prison and you visited me"**

~ Matthew 25:36



## From the Director

Dear Friends,

When I was young, I remember listening very carefully to the Beatitudes whenever they were read aloud in church or in a classroom setting. The cadence and theme of these statements always stopped me in my tracks: *What is Jesus telling us?*

Each one of us is blessed in some way, even if it's not always felt in the heart or visible to the eye. Our state of being blessed is inherent because we are children of God, and worthy of His love – and forgiveness. We are blessed when we strive for a life filled with goodness, humility, and grace.

Prisoners are in great need of hearing Jesus' message. Through your support of Dismas Ministry, you remind prisoners we serve that they are not forgotten. Your support reminds them that they are worthy and welcome to receive the free Catholic resources we provide.

Thank you for “seeing” the imprisoned, and supporting them on their faith journey. Blessed, we are.

With gratitude,

*Ms. Tyler Curtis*  
Executive Director

## Dismas Ministry Board of Directors Update

The Dismas Ministry Board of Directors is comprised of 10 individuals who bring a wealth of experience and expertise in their fields to the organization and in support of our mission. We are pleased to announce the newly-appointed members of the Executive Committee:

Curtis Gibson, President  
Kate Nava, Vice President

Thank you to Curtis and Kate for stepping into these leadership roles.

And, we thank our outgoing Board President Sr. Patricia Weidman, CSA, for her dedicated service to Dismas Ministry and those we serve.

### Executive Committee

President, Curtis Gibson (Clackamas, OR)  
Vice President, Kate Nava (Decatur, TX)  
Secretary, Fr. Richard Deshaies, SJ (Boston, MA)  
Treasurer, Stephen McGuire (Mequon, WI)

### Board Members

Daniel McCarthy (Milwaukee, WI)  
Deacon Seigfried Presberry (Baltimore, MD)  
Joshua Stancil (Asheboro, NC)  
Loretta Walters (St. Louis, MO)  
Sr. Patricia Weidman, CSA (Fond du Lac, WI)  
Fr. Frederick Zagone, SJ (Milwaukee, WI)

## Thanks to Our Mercy Circle Monthly Donors

We established Mercy Circle in 2019. Since then, 70 people have enrolled in this monthly giving club. In less than three years, we have raised almost \$40,000.

The decision to entrust regular gifts to Dismas Ministry strengthens our efforts to provide for the spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters behind bars. These recurring gifts help sustain our monthly fulfillment of the mission, and bring peace of mind to staff and volunteers engaged in this important work.

Thanks to all members of Mercy Circle for making the commitment to support the ministry in this way. We welcome others to consider joining our monthly giving club for a convenient way to support Dismas Ministry throughout the year.

To learn more, visit [www.dismasministry.org/mercycircle](http://www.dismasministry.org/mercycircle)

### MERCY CIRCLE IMPACT

**262**  
Bibles  
per month

**\$112**  
Average  
Monthly  
Donation

**Total Donors**  
**70**

**28**  
Different  
States  
Represented

**\$2,100**  
per month

# Volunteer and Team Spotlight: Cardinal Stritch University Students Making a Difference

Our team consists of a variety of people who share their gifts and talents with Dismas Ministry. Key staff members, interns, and volunteers comprise our “mission family” at our operations located on the campus of Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Since 2019, Dismas Ministry has engaged several university students in meaningful internship opportunities.

Some of the students recently graduated, and others are moving on to other summer internship and work opportunities. Before they concluded their work with us, we asked them to reflect on and share a brief statement about their time with Dismas Ministry.

We are grateful to these students for their contributions to our mission and in support of prisoners and their loved ones.



**PEDRO DIAZ, CLASS OF 2022**  
Major: Business Administration and Math

“I have learned that inmates look to God for forgiveness and salvation. They need our help to become better people and have a dignified life”

Business & Financial Management Intern



**CAMILLIA WASHINGTON, CLASS OF 2023**  
Majors: Communications, Business-to-Business Social Media  
Criminology, Policing and Justice

“The people that we serve can come from any part of the United States. They all are in need of spiritual healing from Christ.”

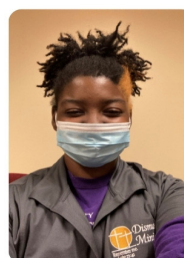
Student Ambassador



**ISABELLE HELM, CLASS OF 2022**  
Major: Psychology – Applied/Clinical Counseling

“People perceive inmates as less than human, and disregard the struggles they have been through because they are in prison. They are not very different from us, but need the extra help and support from us during their hard time.”

Project Coordinator / Intern



**'KEVIA GRAYS, CLASS OF 2022**  
Major: Sociology

“The work we do helps to connect or introduce inmates to another means of support as they go through this very isolated time in their lives.”

Student Ambassador



**JAZLYN RAMOS, CLASS OF 2025**  
Major: Criminal Justice

“Dismas Ministry offers a sense of peace for inmates because, with the help of the ministry, prisoners are able to receive materials to practice their faith.”

Franciscan Servant Scholar



**FRIDA TRUJILLO, CLASS OF 2025**  
Major: Criminal Justice

“You can share love and grow as a person all at once while doing any acts of kindness for others.”

Franciscan Servant Scholar



On Friday, April 29, 2022, at the 17th Annual Celebrate Internships Employer Appreciation Event, the Milwaukee Area College Internship Consortium (MACIC) recognized Dismas Ministry as an Outstanding Small Employer Internship Program.

Each year, MACIC recognizes companies and organizations that have developed exceptional internship programs for college students. The criteria for these awards include providing excellent mentoring for interns through a well-structured internship experience and clear evaluation process, giving interns the opportunity to develop professionally.

*“It is an honor to be recognized for our work with and in support of students at Cardinal Stritch University.”*

*Ms. Tyler Curtis, Executive Director*





# Dismas Ministry

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a national Catholic outreach for inmates, victims, their  
families, those released from prison, and the community.

DISMAS MINISTRY is registered as a nonprofit  
corporation in the State of Wisconsin, and listed in the  
US Catholic Directory as a religious, tax-exempt,  
501(c)(3) organization. All gifts are tax deductible.

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*Serving God continued from page 1*

In retirement, Dan continues to focus on another important issue in Milwaukee: homelessness. He currently serves on the board of Travaux – a nonprofit development entity of the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee. In serving the community, and working with others to help make systemic improvements, Dan hopes to enhance the quality of life for everyone inclusive of those living on the margins.

“First, we need to care. The incarcerated seemed to be feared and despised by a large segment of our citizenry, especially those of influence. The whole tilt of our criminal justice system is toward retribution rather than rehabilitation. To change this dynamic, we need to make a concerted effort to learn more about why this system is broken and match this knowledge with our faithful commitment to love thy neighbor. Without a groundswell of caring for how the incarcerated are brought back into society, I fear this broken and ineffective system will be perpetuated,” said Dan.

People can “visit the prisoner” in a wide variety of ways, but it depends on access to different programs in the community.

“We can minister through a pen pal program. We can volunteer with a post-prison support organization, or get the training and actually meet one-on-one with those currently in prison. We can learn more about effective rehabilitation and restorative justice programs and initiatives, and advocate for better public policies. Each person must decide what will work best for their individual path in ministering to the incarcerated,” said Dan. “Keep in mind the words of Jesus in Matthew’s Gospel: *Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me* (Matthew 25:40). Let’s all go forward to serve God by serving those in need.”

*Dan McCarthy is a Dismas Ministry board member based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was born in Syracuse, New York, but has lived most of his life in Wisconsin, where he earned a Bachelor’s degree in political science from Carroll University. Dan is married to Jan M. McCarthy, a retired registered nurse and an active volunteer at the Wisconsin Humane Society.*



*Dan McCarthy coordinates the Order of Malta volunteers, who serve Dismas Ministry once a month. The volunteers include, from left: Steve DeGuire, KM, Mary Cesarz, Mike Cesarz, KM, Dan McCarthy, KM, and Hon. Beth Hanan, DM.*