



# Remember Me

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

## Answering the Call to Serve



Steve McGuire, Dismas Ministry  
Board Member

Dismas Ministry has been blessed with many volunteers over the years. They are often quiet, behind-the-scenes partners in the mission of our organization, and we simply couldn't fulfill our day-to-day work without them.

For those called to Board service, it is a different and more substantial commitment of time, but it is also vital to our current and future success as a Catholic, faith-based nonprofit.

Nine individuals, from seven states and all regions of the country, comprise our current Board. Wisconsin-based Stephen McGuire

began serving on the Dismas Ministry Board in 2021. From the moment he stepped into this role as Board Treasurer, he has been a present and faithful servant of the organization.

"Dismas Ministry used to rent a booth at the Men of Christ Conference in Milwaukee. It was there that I first became aware of the ministry," said Steve. "As a member of Opus Dei, I have a habit of spending at least 10 minutes a day doing spiritual reading. Over the years, I accumulated a large library of such books. Rather than having all of these books just sitting on a bookshelf in my den, I reached out to a friend, Patrick McDevitt, who served on the Dismas Ministry Board at that time. I donated the books through him."

Steve added it was then he learned that the Board needed someone with a financial background, as Pat was preparing to rotate off the Board. This was the perfect opportunity to get involved.

"Years ago, my manager at First Wisconsin Bank back in the 80s was an evangelical Christian and was very involved in prison ministry. I admired what he was doing. With a young and growing family at that time, I personally wasn't in a position to get involved. In the back of my mind, though, I always wanted to learn more about prison ministry. ...continued on page 4

**"In the back of my mind, though, I always wanted to learn more about prison ministry."**

## Voices of Prisoners

*"I have had the great opportunity to participate in your Bible study course. I want to make you all know that I've been blessed by the wonderful experience I've acquired. May God continue to strengthen you all in Jesus' name."*

~ Ochuro E., a prisoner

## From the Chaplains

*"We greatly appreciate all you do for the inmates. Our goal is to give each one hope and encouragement. God bless you for all you do for Him."*

~ Chaplain L. Lasota

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

~ Matthew 25:36



## From the Director

Dear Friends,

Everyone knows someone who's been incarcerated.

As part of our mission, we remind people that they are not walking alone on this life's journey. We provide Catholic resources to anyone who requests them: prisoners, victims, the families and friends of both, and members of the community. We give these resources away for free, whenever possible.

When I first joined the organization, I recall what Dismas Ministry founder, Ron Zeilinger, told me: "The mail from prisoners never stops."

Six days a week, Monday through Saturday, our post office box is filled with letters from women and men who are seeking support in their spiritual lives. And, each week, we prepare custom packages for prisoners and the chaplains who minister to them.

As long as the mail keeps coming, our staff and volunteers – 20 people strong – will continue to respond. We truly cannot do this work without you. Thank you for keeping up with our need for prayerful and financial support, so we, in turn, can help our neighbors in need.

Your support encourages prisoners to know they are not forgotten.

With gratitude,

*Ms. Tyler Curtis*  
Executive Director

**"Lead us back to you,  
O Lord, that we may be  
restored."**

~ Lamentations 5:21



**Thank You! We are grateful to these grant-making organizations, and others, who wish to remain anonymous.**

- The Catholic Community Foundation - Milwaukee, WI
  - Ray & Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust
- Greater Green Bay Community Foundation

## Welcome our new Grant Writer Kevin Abing

Kevin Abing, Ph.D., joined Dismas Ministry in July as a grant writing consultant. He received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and went on to earn his Masters and Ph.D. in American History from Marquette University. "My career path has been somewhat convoluted," Kevin said. "I've worked with the National Archives in Washington, D.C., the Marquette University Archives, and the Milwaukee County Historical Society. So history has obviously been a passion of mine!" As has writing. Kevin wrote his first book, *A Crowded Hour: Milwaukee during the Great War, 1917-1918*, which won the Milwaukee County Historical Society's Gambrinus Prize for the best book on Milwaukee history in 2017.

Aside from writing historical books and articles, Kevin honed his grant writing skill on behalf of the Mayo Clinic and Marquette University. He jumped at the chance to help further Dismas Ministry's mission as a grant writer. "A friend of mine spent some time in prison," Kevin said, "and his determination to deepen his spiritual life under those trying circumstances truly impressed me."

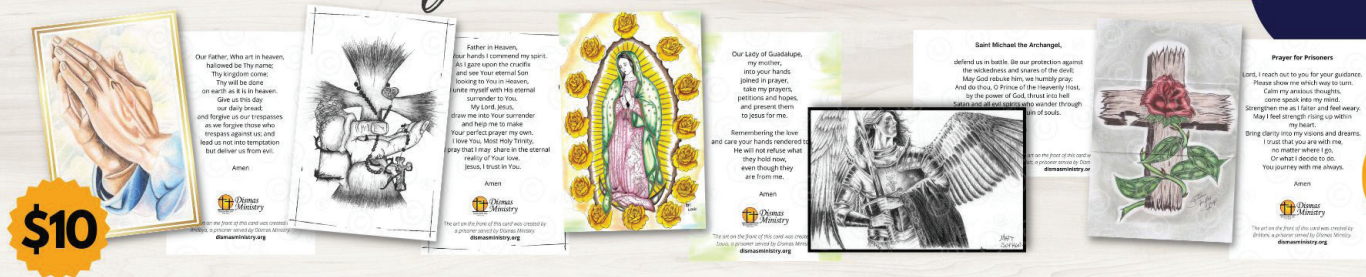
Kevin's wife, Laura, has worked for Marquette University as a proposal/grant writer for nearly 25 years, so he can always tap into her expertise when needed! They love travelling, going to concerts, and rooting for the Green Bay Packers.



# CATHOLIC Prayer Cards

Now available in Spanish!

NEW!



The beautiful and unique artwork featured on these cards was created by prisoners served by Dismas Ministry. Check them out on our website at [dismasministry.org/shop](http://dismasministry.org/shop)

## Dismas Ministry's Student Ambassadors

In July 2021, Dismas Ministry launched the Young Adult Prison Ministry Ambassador Program. The students who participate in this program serve as ambassadors of the organization becoming directly involved in carrying out our programs and services. Through this experience, it is hoped these young adults learn about the Biblical basis of prison ministry, develop an understanding of the dignity of all humans, and know that prisoners are part of the Body of Christ.

Because we are located on the campus of Cardinal Stritch University, it presents an opportunity for students to engage with the organization. Since the program began, six Stritch students have served as ambassadors.

This semester, our two ambassadors, both in their senior year, shared reflections of their time with Dismas Ministry:



**Delisa Person, Ambassador**  
Major: Sociology Minor: Health and Wellness

*"Since I began working with Dismas Ministry, I learned that the inmates we serve really appreciate the services we offer. We give those we serve a sense of hope, which is a theme we use a lot within our organization.*

*I would recommend that others put themselves in another person's shoes. If you had to experience what the poor and/or marginalized communities in society had to, how would you want to be treated? Would you want people to just give up on you? Forget you? Treat you less than? It's rewarding work, helping those who aren't valued in society. It's a step in making the world a much better place for all communities."*

*~Delisa Person, Ambassador*

*"I've learned that the people that the ministry serves are hungry to learn more about the Word of God and eager to strengthen their relationship with Christ. They are very appreciative of all of the materials and resources that are provided to them through the work that we do at Dismas Ministry.*

*Learning more about the poor and the marginalized is our duty. We need to equip ourselves to combat the systems and biases that oppress such people and we do that through education. God has called us to uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. This is our responsibility."*

*~Anerelis Mitchell, Ambassador*



**Anerelis Mitchell, Ambassador**  
Major: Sociology Minor: Communications



*Dismas Ministry*

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## What is the best way to help? Share. Pray. Give.

Scan the QR code on the left to learn how you can help share information about Dismas Ministry. Not everyone has the means to help financially, so another way to help Dismas Ministry this holiday season is by sharing our information with anyone you feel might benefit from learning about our services. Learn more by using the QR code or go to [www.dismasministry.org/share](http://www.dismasministry.org/share). Thank you!

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The timing finally worked for Steve to take his first step in that direction. And, he is currently in the process of registering with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to do hands-on prison ministry work at the Milwaukee County Juvenile Detention Center.

“As a college student, I was a volunteer tutor at Chapin Hall Orphanage. I also spent a month between graduating from college and starting business school doing volunteer work with the Little Brothers of the Poor,” Steve shared. Both organizations are located in his hometown of Chicago.

Since moving to Milwaukee, Steve’s involvement has been mainly as a board member or finance committee member at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Hoops4Kidz, Summit Educational Association and the Women’s Care Center of Milwaukee.

“Making financial contributions or volunteering with Dismas Ministry is a great way to help support those ‘inside’ and ex-offenders on their faith journeys,” said Steve. “I encourage anyone to get involved. Learning more about this apostolate will often plant a seed for others and grow the network of support for those behind bars. It sure did for me many years ago.”

*Stephen McGuire is the Senior Vice President of Commercial Lending with Ixonia Bank in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He recently served as a board member of the Milwaukee Development Corporation and a member of the Programs Planning Committee of the Commercial Association of Realtors – Wisconsin. He currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Women’s Care Center of Milwaukee. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Accounting from North Park College and a Master’s in Business Administration from DePaul University. Steve and his wife, Ruth, reside in Mequon. In his leisure time, he enjoys playing golf and spending time with his five grown children and their families.*