



Remember Me

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

Walking in the Shoes of Another



Martha Henry, Dismas
Ministry Board Member

Since joining the Dismas Ministry Board of Directors in June 2023, Martha Henry has been busy. From day one of her service on the Board, Martha has rolled up her proverbial sleeves and is eager to help strengthen our mission to support the spiritual lives of men and women behind bars.

A lifelong Catholic, Martha is inspired to serve others in the Church as well as neighbors in her community of Cresco, Pennsylvania. Though she hails from California, she has lived and worked in different parts of the country. Martha now enjoys retirement life – but not an idle one – in the shadow of the Pocono Mountains.

"I have a passion for serving those that need a second chance in life. I want to be able to reach out to people who

seek a positive change in their lives," said Martha, whose work in special education provided experience for helping those among the most vulnerable.

She has had family members who spent time in prison, and understands how people become involved in activities that lead to prison. Martha wants to help be a part of the solution in preventing someone from heading down that path, encourage someone making meaning of a life behind bars, and support those reentering society.

As a community volunteer, Martha is active with several organizations close to home. Among them, she has served in leadership roles with both her Catholic parish and Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO), an organization that provides scholarship support for women's education.

In responding to the needs of those served by Dismas Ministry, Martha strives to develop an understanding of how people end up in prison. Then, design ways to help individuals while they are serving time, and explore options to support them upon their release.

"I am a firm believer in thinking about walking in the shoes of another. And further, I believe in offering services and visits to meet the spiritual needs as well as perhaps the learning needs of those incarcerated."

Martha Henry is a Dismas Ministry board member based in northeastern Pennsylvania. Born and raised near San Francisco, California, she holds a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Montana at Missoula, and a master's degree in special education from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Martha is a retired teacher. A devout Catholic, she is a parish volunteer and serves as treasurer of her local chapter of the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO). She and her husband, Jim, enjoy outdoor activities and spending time with family.

Voices of Prisoners

"The prison where I am currently detained does not provide much in the way of Catholic reading or prayer material. Therefore I am writing your Ministry to ask if you could be kind enough to send me a new prayer book, the one I received several years ago is falling apart. I also would like to request from you any Catholic reading material that can be provided."

*~ Francis P., a prisoner
from Bridgeton, NJ*

Voices of Donors

"My brother, Steve, was in prison in another part of the country. His letters home were tinged with sadness and helplessness. I lived far away and couldn't visit him. I always felt that things might have been different if he had someone to lift him up, and steer him toward a positive way forward. Through supporting the work of Dismas Ministry, I honor my brother who died soon after his release from prison."

*~ Kathryn McIlvane,
Bellevue, Washington*

"I was in prison and you visited me" ~ Matthew 25:36



From the Director

Dear Friends,

It is a busy time of year for Dismas Ministry. There is great energy that elevates our mission and this is due, in large part, to the prayerful and financial support from YOU – our friends and benefactors.

Behind the scenes, there are more than two dozen team members dedicated to our cause: three fundraising and marketing professionals, and 25 volunteers. Even though I'm immersed so intently in the day-to-day operations of our small nonprofit, I never forget that our mission is far reaching and touches many lives – every day of the year.

We receive letters from prisoners, their family members, and chaplains who express gratitude for the ways in which we support imprisoned men and women on their individual faith journeys. Here's a message from Willis which gives an indication of the impact of our work:

"Thank you very much for the information on the courses you offer. I apologize for not taking action yet, but have had some health issues – it happens when you are 75 – and haven't had the chance to talk about it with my chaplain before deciding.

Please keep praying for the Catholic community here at the State Prison. Compared to the Evangelicals, we're quite small. When COVID came we lost our priest, and only recently have restarted having Mass about once monthly. Please pray that a way can be found for a priest to come in weekly and that other Catholic programming will open up for us. Again, thank you so much for thinking of me. God bless..." ~Willis, a prisoner from New Hampshire

This holiday season, my heart is full. I'm grateful for the ways in which this Ministry has enriched the faith lives of those we serve. I'm blessed by the opportunities to connect and collaborate with many people – both locally and across the country – in support of this mission. As we all continue to work together, this mission of Dismas Ministry is ours. Thank you for sharing it with me and everyone on our collective team from coast to coast.

With gratitude,

Ms. Tyler Curtis
Executive Director

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God."
~Philippians 4:6



We are Home for the Holidays

In spring 2023, we announced the difficult news that Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was closing its doors – after 86 years – following the spring commencement. The Dismas Ministry operations had been part of the Stritch campus since 2019. Our organization's operations continued onsite, while the search began for our next new home for the Ministry.

Our quest to find new workspaces best suited for our needs was blessed with a special opportunity.

Gus Ramirez and the Ramirez Family Foundation purchased the former Cardinal Stritch University campus in July 2023. And, Dismas Ministry was invited to remain as part of the onsite community that is under development.

The newly acquired north shore location will become the home of a second St. Augustine Preparatory Academy – a private, Christian school for students in K4-12th grades. The school's flagship campus, located on Milwaukee's south side, opened in 2017. Known as "Aug Prep" in the community, they will begin welcoming students to the former Stritch campus in 2025. To learn more about Aug Prep, please visit www.augprep.org.

The Dismas Ministry Board of Directors, staff and volunteers are grateful to everyone at the Ramirez Family Foundation and Aug Prep for the opportunity to work alongside them. We are "home" and our doors are open to partner with them and others, both near and far, who are committed to supporting our Christian faith-based missions.

Please pray for everyone impacted by the closing of Cardinal Stritch University – especially those still seeking employment – during this time of transition.

2024 St. Dismas Award Recipient – John Hallinan

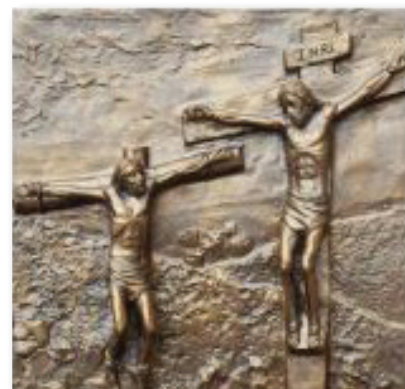


John Hallinan, 2024 St. Dismas Award Recipient

The Board of Directors of Dismas Ministry is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2024 St. Dismas Award. John Hallinan will be presented with the award in spring 2024 at a special event in Anchorage, Alaska.

John is retired from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). He is an active member of the Holy Family Cathedral (HFC) Parish in Anchorage.

Gil Lulay, a fellow prison minister, nominated John. Gil wrote: “John has been the driving force in spreading Dismas Ministry’s Bible study course (*God With Us*) throughout the Department of Corrections in Alaska. For the last seven years, he has been a Eucharistic Minister, counselor, advisor, teacher and cheerleader for our parish prison ministry program. He has helped grow the program and introduced more course offerings and other Catholic resources to the prisoners served. His unwavering dedication to serving others in this way is known throughout the state.”

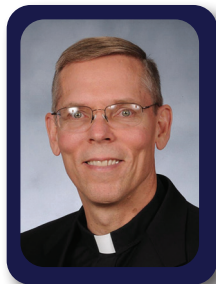


St. Dismas Award

The St. Dismas Award is given annually, by Dismas Ministry, to persons in recognition of their outstanding service to the incarcerated. Each year, the award is presented to the recipient at a special gathering in their home state on or near the Feast of St. Dismas, March 25.

To see a list of past award recipients, please visit our website at dismasministry.org/stdismasaward

Dismas Ministry Board of Directors 2023 Updates



Welcome to Our New Board Members

In 2023, Dismas Ministry welcomed three new members for service on the Board of Directors.

Thank you for saying ‘yes’ and offering your knowledge and expertise in support of the mission. Your kindness and compassion will help to uplift those we serve through Dismas Ministry.

New Board members pictured, from left to right:

- Martha Henry – *Cresco, Pennsylvania*
- Sr. Marilyn Kesler, SSND – *Milwaukee, Wisconsin*
- Fr. James Bors – *Pasadena, Maryland*

Thank You to Our Outgoing Board Members

We would like to extend a "Thank You" to four outgoing board members who completed terms of service in 2023.

Each one contributed immeasurable insights, guidance and support to help raise awareness of and support for our mission. With our gratitude and prayers, we wish them all the best!

Outgoing Board members pictured, from left to right:

- Curtis Gibson – *Clackamas, Oregon*
- Daniel McCarthy – *Milwaukee, Wisconsin*
- Deacon Seigfried Presberry – *Baltimore, Maryland*
- Joshua Stancil – *Asheboro, North Carolina*





Dismas Ministry

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www.dismasministry.org

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A newsletter published by Dismas Ministry,
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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**THANK YOU
SO MUCH!**

Thanks to all of our gracious donors, whose steadfast
generosity has illuminated our journey and enabled us to
make a profound impact on the lives of those we serve.
We are grateful for the positive change you have
empowered us to bring to the spiritual rehabilitation of
incarcerated men and women searching for God's Word.
Thank you 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

ATTENTION - WE ARE HIRING Program Assistant (Part-Time)

At our home office:
6801 North Yates Road
Milwaukee, WI 53217



The **Program Assistant** will implement the administrative
and programmatic aspects of our publications and mailing
ministry. Working under the direct supervision of the
Executive Director, the Program Assistant will manage all
incoming requests for materials, maintain data records for all
individuals in our network(s), and oversee the packaging and
mailing of these parcels on a weekly basis.

For a full job description visit: dismasministry.org/careers
or reach out to Juliann Joerres at
juliann.joerres@dismasministry.org.

Voices of Prison Ministers

"Thank you, for sending me everything I need for my Bible Study class at Trumbull Correctional Institution (in Ohio).
I started the class last Wednesday night at the Camp and had 17 men in attendance. I had great participation in questions,
answers and discussions! I love the material that you provide for the inmates and have used your resources for many years."

~ Anne Moneypenny, team member with the Diocese of Youngstown, OH