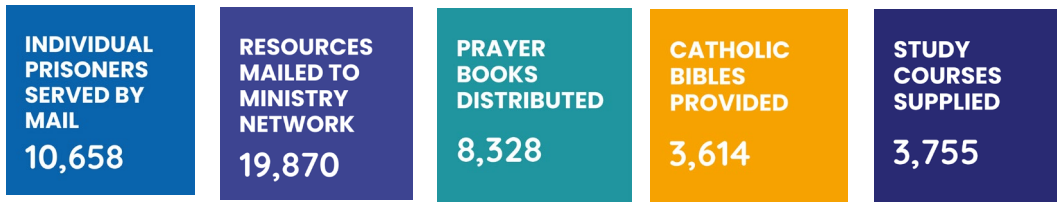




Dismas Ministry Annual Report 2024 – 2025



Thank You for Making a Difference

Dismas Ministry is a national Catholic outreach dedicated to serving the spiritual needs of incarcerated individuals, prison ministers, victims of crime, and all affected by the criminal justice system. We provide free Catholic scripture, faith, and prayer resources to support rehabilitation and healing through God’s transformative power.

Why We Serve

As Catholics, we are called to proclaim the Gospel message. We believe that even those who have strayed from God’s path are members of Christ’s Body, worthy of love and support. Dismas Ministry provides resources to help individuals reassess their lives, find spiritual healing, and make amends. As Christ taught, ‘I was in prison and you visited me.’ (Matthew 25:36)

Letter from the Executive Director

This year we gave witness to the hope that grows when our brothers and sisters who are incarcerated are seen, heard, and accompanied. With your help, Dismas Ministry continued to place Scripture, prayer, and encouragement into thousands of hands across the United States. Our volunteers, chaplains, and partners reminded us that faithful presence changes lives.

In the following you will see highlights from July 2024 through June 2025, including programming milestones, stories from inside, and the stewardship that made it all possible. Thank you for standing with us in this mission of mercy.

With gratitude,
Juliann Joerres, Executive Director

New Board Members Welcomed

This fiscal year, Dismas Ministry joyfully welcomed four new members to our Board of Directors. Each brings a wealth of experience, faith, and dedication to advancing our mission of providing spiritual care and hope to individuals who are incarcerated. Their diverse backgrounds strengthen our capacity to serve and expand our reach across the nation.

- Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP (New York, NY)
- Daniel Gabler (Bayside, WI)
- Chris Patrick (Baltimore, MD)
- Joseph DeAlmeida (Arlington, MA)

Together, our Board of Directors continues to provide prayerful guidance, strategic direction, and unwavering commitment to those we serve. Learn more about our board members at dismasministry.org/board-of-directors.

Volunteers

Dismas Ministry is a partner agency with the [Ignatian Volunteer Corps](#). Our ministry is greatly strengthened by two extremely generous volunteers.

- David Barden serves as our Mailing and Packaging Specialist, and
- Kelly O'Keefe serves as our Ministry Mail Coordinator.

Dismas Ministry also has a corps of dedicated volunteers who help fulfill orders, correct course tests, manage inventory, and assist with general office duties.

We are grateful to all our volunteers, some of whom have been part of our team for nearly 20 years!

- Greg Dunlop – Volunteer Bookkeeper,
- Karen and Sue, Anne Radomski, Ruth Anne White, and Linda Dudzek – Correspondence Course Volunteers
- Deacon Roberto Fuentes – Spanish Correspondence Course Volunteer

Young Adult Prison Ministry Ambassador Program (YAPMAP)

With generous support from the School Sisters of Notre Dame, we received a grant to support the continuation of our Young Adult Prison Ministry Ambassador Program (YAPMAP) an initiative that engages college-age students in hands-on service within our ministry.

During the 2024-25 school year, three Alverno College interns served as YAPMAP Ambassadors. These students played an essential role in managing our Bible study correspondence program, organizing resource inventory, collecting service data, fulfilling requests from individuals who are incarcerated, and assisting with events, communications, and donor engagement. They also helped introduce the mission of Dismas Ministry to their campus community through tours, presentations, and outreach events.

The need for our services continues to grow



As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we reflect with gratitude on how far this ministry has come — and with urgency on how much work remains.

When Dismas Ministry began in 2000, we served just four states. By 2013, our outreach reached every state in the country. Today, twenty-five years later, we provide free Catholic faith materials to an average of 13,000 individuals who are incarcerated each year in more than 1,800 correctional facilities.

Yet, even after a quarter-century of service, we have only begun to meet the need. There are more than 6,200 correctional facilities in the United States, housing nearly two million people. An estimated 300,000 of them identify as Catholic. Each year, Dismas Ministry is able to serve just over 25 percent of U.S. facilities and about five percent of Catholic individuals behind bars.

The demand continues to increase as more prisons move toward digital communication and begin restricting physical mail. To ensure no one is left without access to the Gospel, we are expanding our digital distribution efforts so that our Bible studies, prayer books, and reflection guides can reach individuals even when paper is no longer allowed.

After 25 years, our mission remains the same — but the need is greater than ever.

Programming - A Year in Review

- I Am Beautiful, Volume 10 was published, sharing stories of resilience and hope.
- Dismas Ministry became the steward of Paulist Prison Ministries' legacy.
- Expressions of the Soul art event celebrated the creativity and dignity of incarcerated individuals.

- St. Dismas Award Recipient, Fr Charles Canterna was awarded the 2025 St. Dismas Award in March.
- Digital access expanded through our partnership with Edovo.

Gratitude to Our Donors, Volunteers, and Supporters

We are grateful to both long-term and new donors who are inspired by and support our mission. We have grown a solid donor base since the organization's inception.

Dismas Ministry's primary goal is to serve the imprisoned. We are determined to grow our outreach to those who seek a deeper connection with God and the Catholic Church. The resources we provide are tools for their spiritual journey.

Our mission would cease to exist without the prayerful and financial support of many individuals and faith-based grantmaking organizations from across the country.

Thank you, friends, for your partnership with Dismas Ministry and your kinship with our brothers and sisters behind bars.



Understanding Our Numbers

At Dismas Ministry, we take great care in tracking the reach of our mission and the number of individuals who receive our spiritual resources. We approach this from several directions.

For materials mailed directly to individuals who are incarcerated, we maintain an in-house database that records every person we send resources to and exactly what was sent. However, our database is not currently designed to extract information by date range or time period. For that reason, our team manually compiles these figures when preparing annual totals. While these numbers are thoughtfully tracked and represent our best effort to measure activity, they should be viewed as approximate.

Bulk orders—those sent to chaplains, volunteers, and correctional facilities—are easier to quantify, and we have strong confidence in those numbers.

We also gather data through our partnership with Edovo, a nonprofit that provides a free educational and communication platform for individuals who are incarcerated. Their digital system allows us to see how many times each Dismas Ministry resource was accessed on tablets in facilities across the country. However, it does not identify whether the same person accessed multiple Dismas titles. For example, if our prayer book and Bible study course were each opened 20 times, we know the resources were accessed 40 times in total—but we cannot say with certainty that 40 unique individuals were reached.

Even with these limitations, the data we collect—through mail, bulk distribution, and digital access—together paints a reliable and meaningful picture of the reach and impact of our shared ministry.