

**Statewide  
Criminal Justice Ministry  
Conference**

**Oblate School of Theology  
Whitley Theological & Grotto Ministries Center  
San Antonio, Texas**

**October 25-26, 2013**

**CJM Conference**

**Dedication**

## Sr. Antonia Brenner – the Prison Angel (12/1/26 – 10/17/13)



Sr. Antonia touches statue of St. Paul chained (San Pablo Encadenado) outside chapel at La Mesa State Prison in Tijuana, Mexico, in 2005.

**Theme: Responsibility,  
Rehabilitation and Restoration**

**A Catholic Perspective on  
Crime and Criminal Justice**

# Texas Catholic Correctional Minister (TCCM)

Diocese	Director
Amarillo	
Austin +	Dcn Doots Dufour
Beaumont	Dcn Tommy Ewing
Brownsville	Ofelia De Los Santos
Corpus Christi	Dcn Cris Luna
Dallas	Dcn Jose Trevino
El Paso	Sr Christine Doman
Fort Worth	Dcn Bruce Corbett
Galveston-Houston*	Fr Ron Cloutier
Laredo	Dcn Jose Rodriguez
Lubbock	
San Angelo	Dcn Mike Medina
San Antonio	Dcn Bob Leibrecht
Tyler	Fr Tom Edelen
Victoria	

+ Chair of TCCM

\* Dcn Eddie Stoughton and Dcn Richard Lopez

**Catholic Perspective**  
**Criminal Justice Ministry**

**Deacon Bob Leibrecht**  
**October 25, 2013**

# Statement by Pope John Paul II July 9, 2000

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“We are still a long way from the time when our conscience can be certain that we have done everything possible, to prevent crime and to control it effectively, so that it no longer does harm; and at the same time, to offer to those who commit crimes a way of redeeming themselves and making a positive return to society.”

# Responsibility, Rehabilitation & Restoration

## USCCB - November 2000

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A Catholic approach begins with recognition that the dignity of the human person applies to both victim & offender.

Our tradition and faith offers alternatives that:

- Can hold offenders accountable and challenge them to change
- Reach out to the victims and reject "vengeance" (*death penalty*)
- Restore a sense of community
- Resist violence that has engulfed so much of our culture

Restorative Justice seeks to address crime in terms of harm done to the victim and community, not simply a violation of the law. Also, it insists that the offender come to grips with consequences of their actions, while at the same time our faith which calls us to hold people accountable, to forgive and to heal.



# Catholic Action Plan

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## *Texas Catholic Bishops*

### Action Plan for Criminal Justice – June 2006

- **Arch/Diocesan Level** - *Appoint CJM director, ministry budget, inventory of facilities, volunteer database, ministry needs in prisons/jails, recruit & train, harness support from Catholic services – SVDP, KOC, ACTS, etc.*
- **Parish Level** - *Identify parish CJM coordinator(s), awareness & education, adopt a facility, provide materials, develop support group and assist with re-entry.*
- **State Level** - *Collaborate with Texas Catholic Correctional Ministers (TCCM), bring actions to Texas Catholic Conference (TCC), hold CJM conferences, work with Texas legislatures on areas of CJ reform, identify areas of ecumenical cooperation.*

# Mission of CJM

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*God's response* to the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of those incarcerated, victims and families, the formerly incarcerated and all impacted by crime in the community.

In offering *God's presence*, the Church brings a message of hope, love, compassion and justice, reminding us that faith can be renewed through reconciliation.

# Tactics of CJM

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Recruit, screen, and train volunteers from parishes throughout the archdiocese to minister both inside the walls and in the community.

Offer parishes formation and on-going education to help the faithful better understand the needs of those served.

# Areas of CJM Focus

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- Organize and lead Catholic worship, prayer and catechetical programs for adult and youth offenders
- Provide support to victims, families, formerly incarcerated and all impacted by crime in community
- Assist ex-offender coming home and their families with basic needs including housing & employment, and spiritual direction
- Address community and social justice efforts

# Major Areas of Effort

## CJM Activities



# Offender Population

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## United States

- 5% of world's population, yet almost 25% of world's prisoners
- 2.3 million in prison or jail
- 5 million on probation or parole
- 1 in 100 adults (> 18yr) are incarcerated, 1/15 Black, 1/36 Hispanic, 1/106 white
- 8% of the incarcerated are women
- 25% have some form of mental illness
- Over \$70 billion spent on CJ in 2007

## Texas

- 1 in 22 adults in prison, jail or on supervision (parole/probation)
- TDCJ operating budget for 2012 was just over \$3 billion
- 22-25% of incarcerated are Catholic (18% TDCJ & 31% BOP)

# Drug Epidemic & Community Impact

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- US consumes 66% of world's illegal drugs
- 65% of inmates are addicted or abuse drugs
- Another 20% commit crime while under influence
- Only 11% of inmates with an addiction receive treatment
- 2.2 MM children impacted by parent in prison
- Upwards of 50% will become future prisoners

Recidivism rate for Federal/State offenders is over 50%,  
and 80% for those in county jail

# Adult Offender Characteristics

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- School drop out
- Abused or neglected as a child
- Reared in a fatherless household
- Addicted to or abused drugs and/or alcohol
- No spiritual life developed in the family

80-90% of Offenders have several of these characteristics

There are still many offenders that come from "normal" families without any of these characteristics



# How Do We View Those in CJ System?

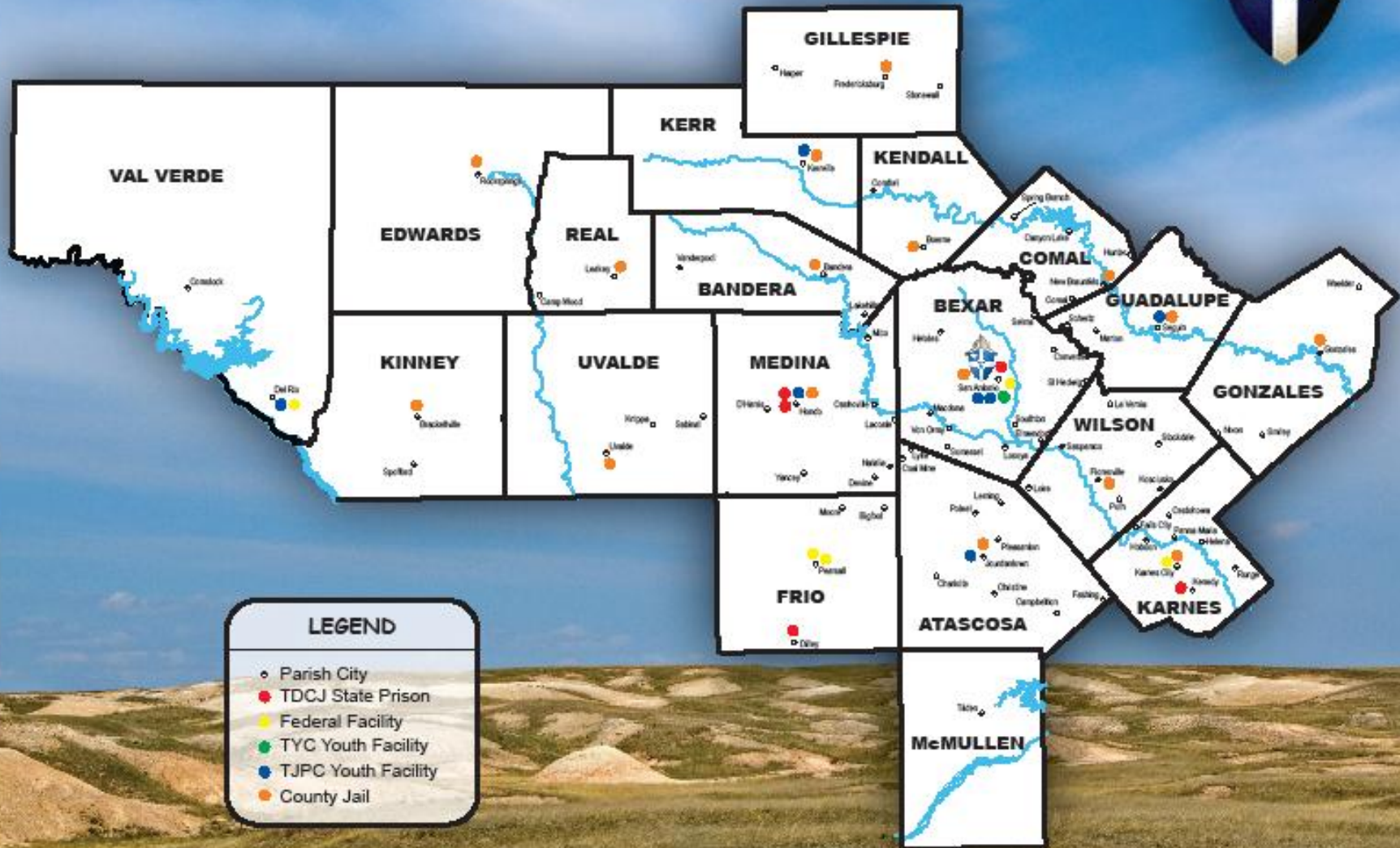
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## Five Stages of Changing Attitudes

- Fear and rejection, wanting nothing to do with them
- They are human, but fundamentally flawed and behavior is unchangeable
- By getting to know them, one encounters people with needs and abilities
- Wonderment and thanksgiving through friendship (one receives more than one gives)
- See face of Christ in the person which leads to discovery of our own dignity & inner beauty

Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche communities - family homes for developmentally disabled, talked about five stages of changing attitudes. There are over 130 communities, first one in France in 1964, in US in Erie, PA in 1972. Fr. Henri Nouven was pastor at one near Toronto, Canada.

# Facilities of Incarceration: San Antonio Archdiocese



## LEGEND

- Parish City
- TDCJ State Prison
- Federal Facility
- TYC Youth Facility
- TJPC Youth Facility
- County Jail

# Total Incarcerated

Type of Facilities	No. of Facilities	Resident Population	
		Total	Catholics*
<b>Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)</b>			
Prisons & Jails	5	8,384	3,450
<b>Federal Facilities</b>			
USMS & ICE Prisons	6	5,599	3,919
<b>Texas County Jails (TCJS)</b>			
County Jails	18	5,255	2,628
<b>Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD)</b>			
Pre-Adjudication	5	298	149
Post-Adjudication	1	96	48
	6	394	197
<b>Archdiocesan Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>19,632</b>	<b>10,194</b>
* Estimated Catholics at each facility			

# Catholic Ministry to Incarcerated

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## State (TDCJ) and Federal Prisons (USMS/ICE)

- Weekly worship services - Mass or SCAP
- Monthly confessions
- Weekly Catholic teaching - RCIA, catechism, bible study

## Juvenile Detention Centers

- Word service, bible study and/or teaching

## County Jails

- Mass offered at Bexar County, with limited services offered at other county jails, mainly bible study

*Besides these programs, there is a Correspondence Program for Catholic Instruction (CPCI) offered to all*

# Correspondence Program for Catholic Instruction

## CPCI - 15 Lesson Topics

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- ❖ Overview of the Church
- ❖ Sacred Tradition
- ❖ Divine Revelation / Unity
- ❖ Prayer
- ❖ Grace and the Sacraments
- ❖ Baptism - Infant Baptism
- ❖ The Sacrament of Confession
- ❖ Heaven - Hell - Purgatory
- ❖ The Blessed Virgin Mary
- ❖ Honoring the Saints
- ❖ Angels - Good and Bad
- ❖ Original Sin
- ❖ Confirmation - Anointing of the Sick
- ❖ The Eucharistic Sacrifice of the Mass
- ❖ The Most Holy Trinity

# ACTS Ministry

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## State Prisons (TDCJ)

- Bi-Annual Prison ACTS retreats

## Bexar County Probation & TDCJ Region IV Parole

- MOTC retreats for men and women

## Men and Women in Recovery

- Bi-Annual Recovery ACTS retreats

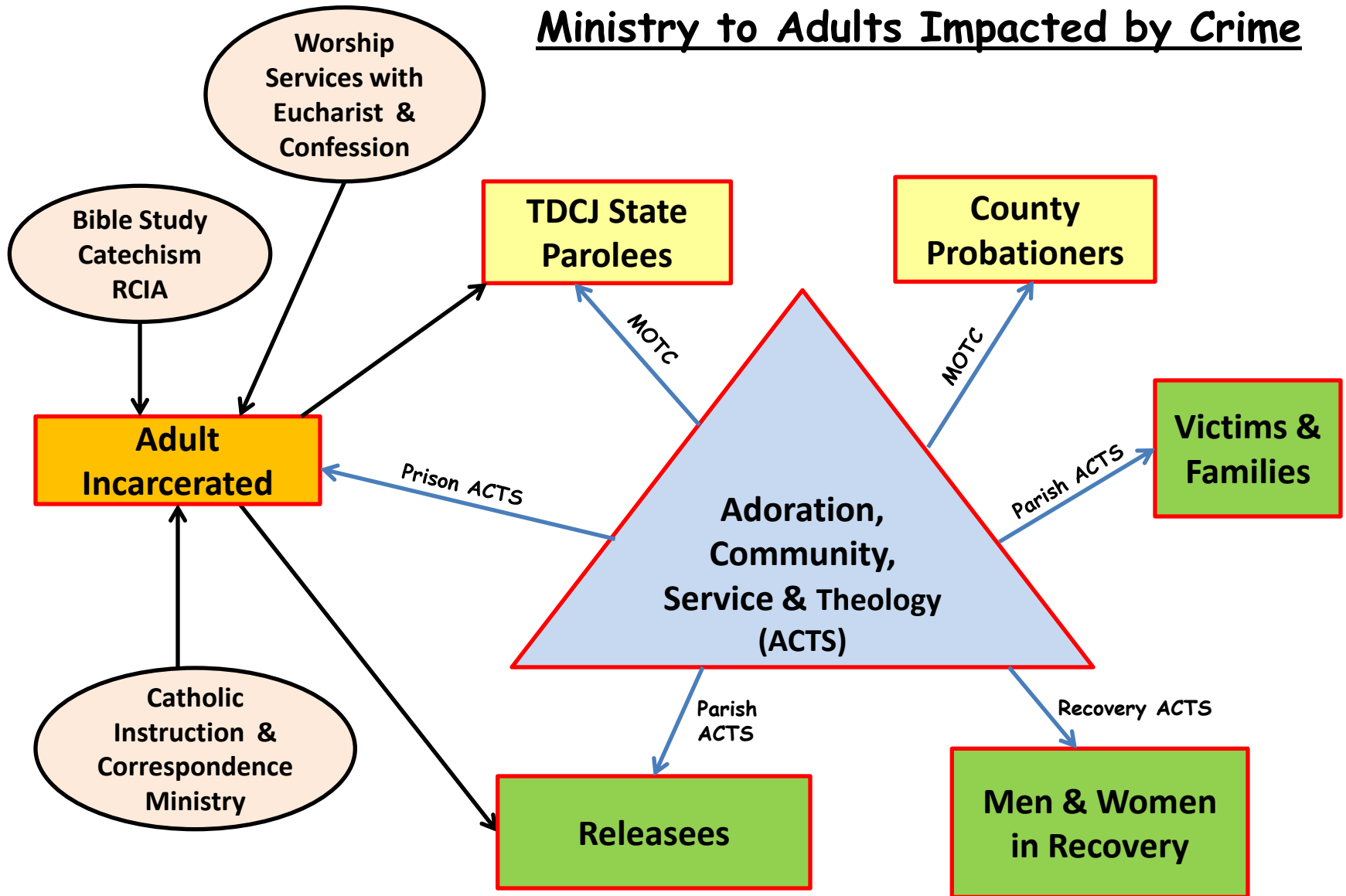
## Victims, Families and Those Released From Prison

- Parish ACTS retreats for men and women

## Juveniles - Ayres House Residents & Parolees

- Bi-Annual MOTC Retreats

# Ministry to Adults Impacted by Crime



# Ministry Support in Community

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## Correspondence Ministry

- Spiritual penpal (PCM) at OLG in Helotes
- CPCI program to learn about Catholic faith

## Parish New Life Ministry

- Aftercare for ex-offenders and families
- Spiritual support for all impacted by crime

## Social Concerns & Support

- Volunteer at Chrysalis Ministries
- Texas Inmate Family Association (TIFA)
- Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (TCADP)
- Others?



# Parish New Life Ministry

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## Aftercare for those coming home:

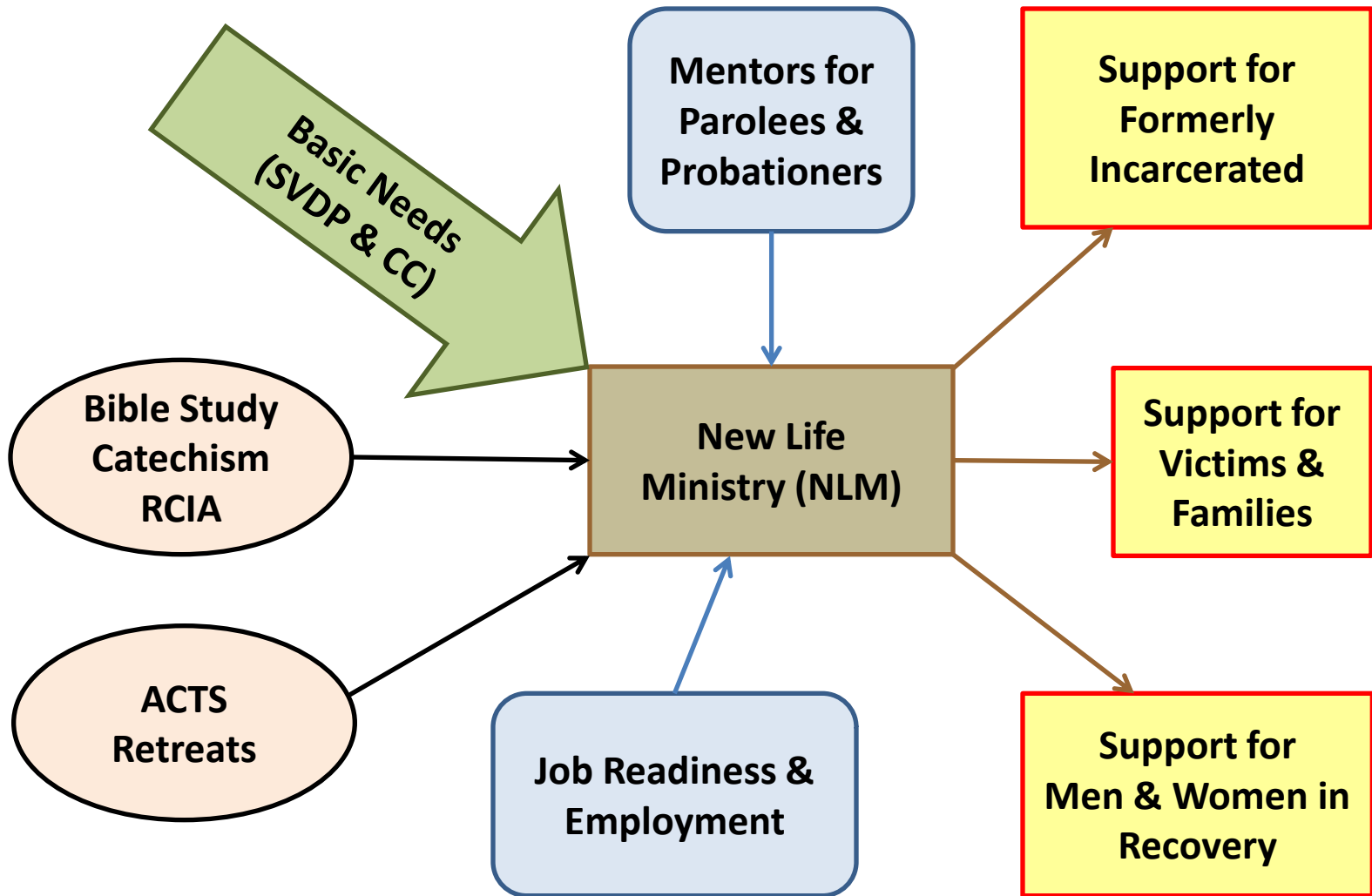
- Help with basic needs (SVDP & CC) to include housing, if necessary
- Direct to agencies; like Chrysalis Ministries, for training, job readiness and employment leads
- Mentoring & spiritual direction
- Encourage participation in church groups and formation programs

# Parish New Life Ministry

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**Spiritual support group for those in the community:**

- Victims & families with a loved one incarcerated
- Ex-offenders coming home
- Those in recovery (drug & alcohol addiction)
- Individuals under correctional supervision
  - parole, probation or pre-trial



## Parish New Life Ministry

Outreach to Those in Community Impacted by Crime

# New Life Ministry

(Support Group - 8 Week Session)

- My Story
- Changes
- Emotions
- Communication
- Coping
- Hopes for the future
- Forgiveness
- Healing (Service)

Beside support within the group, available community resources are discussed. Also, presentations from those working in the area of CJ can be arranged.

# Role of Minister

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- Be Christ to others showing love and compassion through actions that display a Christian life.
- Bring a sense of peace and hope to the penal environment, and to those in the community.
- Share the Gospel of Jesus, planting the seeds of dignity and reconciliation.
  - Remind offenders that they are children of God
  - Extends to the offender's family
  - Reach even the victim of the crime

# Effective Skills

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## What is required?

- Ability to Listen
- Accept with Love
- Try to Understand, Not Judge
- Show Compassion
- Be Open to Holy Spirit

# Minister's response

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- Keep in mind your purpose
- Don't judge based on behavior or values
- Be positive and accepting
- Prepare for rejection
- Be patient and understanding to realize the origin of their responses
- Continue ministry in spite of rejection

# Ministry Challenges

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- Hurdles in obtaining facility clearance
- Prison constraints and uncertainties
- Ministering in a Protestant environment
- Keeping a positive perspective in light of system injustices
- Planting seeds vs. seeing immediate fruit
- Inmate persuasion to seek favors
- Pastor support for the ministry



**Questions?**