

SNAP-SHOT

Through the Annual Pastoral Appeal (APA), the People of God in the Diocese of St. Petersburg support over 50 ministries, programs and services to thousands across our 5 county area.

Our appeal is truly an opportunity for each and every Catholic household to help further the mission of the Church, to become a part of the everyday miracles we experience through sharing our gifts as good stewards. ***Let's take a closer look at some of the good works underway in the...***

OFFICE OF PRISON MINISTRY

The Office of Prison Ministry strives to bring healing and reconciliation to the incarcerated, their families and neighbors, as well as to the community, through the Good News of God's love and forgiveness. Our ministry serves incarcerated men, women, youth and all released ex-offenders in 16 facilities including jails, prisons, work release centers and juvenile detention centers located within our five county Diocese. In addition, we reach out to residents of Pinellas Hope and Pinellas Safe Harbor shelters, and those without a home.

With a volunteer base in excess of 225 dedicated volunteers including Catholic lay persons, deacons, brothers, women religious and priests, it is our hope that the presence of this ministry will influence the evolution of the corrections system as a whole, towards compassion and reconciliation. We recognize that our actions are the most effective means of touching the hearts of the incarcerated and corrections staff.



In carrying out our mission, we:

- Provide spiritual services needed by the incarcerated and their families.
- Strive to increase community understanding of the criminal justice system, the needs of the incarcerated and their families, the needs of the victims of crime and the social teachings of the Church as they relate to criminal justice.
- Work and advocate for improvements in the criminal justice system on a local, State and Nationwide level.
- Provide monthly Family Support Groups for those with incarcerated loved ones.
- Partially fund the Red Tent Women's Project, which offers pre and post release referral services, through the cooperation of other area agencies and membership in organizations such as the American Correctional Association the Pinellas Ex Offender Re Entry Coalition and the Hillsborough Re Entry Network.

This information has been provided by the
Diocesan Office of Stewardship & Development.
To learn more about ministries, services and programs
funded by the Annual Pastoral Appeal, visit dosp.org.

