

# DETENTION AND REINTEGRATION MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

Fall 2008

## DEAR FRIENDS...

BY DEACON STEVE RANGEL

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I would like to start by saying thank you to Sister Sue Reif for her eight years of ministry her at the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Her devotion and dedication to the incarcerated and to their families is an inspiration to all of us.

After reviewing the ministry and taking into consideration the need at this time, Frances Vogel-Montañó and I decided to turn this position into two jobs in order to insure that the ministries are maintained. Carl Koestner will head up the Thresholds Ministry and Sister Josefina Peralta will be the coordinator for the Prison Ministry.

Carl Koestner is well known to the Thresholds ministry because he has worked in this ministry for the last three years with the men. His wife, Martha, has been involved in the ministry as well and has taught confirmation with Karl in the women's prison in Albuquerque. Karl brings experience in education and in substance abuse counseling which will be very helpful in this ministry.

Sister Josefina Peralta, a Canossian Daughters of Charity Sister, brings a lot of experience with her that will be an asset to her in the Prison Ministry. Sister Josefina was a volunteer with the "Youth Reintegration Mentoring" with Sister Sharon Brannen, FdCC who started Thresholds for the Juvenile. Sister Josefina has a strong background in Religious Education and experience working with the hospital ministry, for which she completed the CPE (Chaplain Pastoral Education) training. I know this experience will benefit Sister Josefina in this ministry.

I know all of you join me in welcoming and supporting both of them. Again, I'd like to thank you all for answering God's call to serve our brothers and sisters who are incarcerated.



**Carl Koestner**

*Photo provided by Rita Lauran Lucero*



**Sister Josefina Peralta**

*Photo provided by Rita Lauran Lucero*

Greetings from hot and sunny southern California!

I started my new job with the Diocese of San Bernardino two weeks ago, and I think of all of YOU every time I meet one of the detention ministry volunteers here or talk to one of the prison chaplains or hear about their desire to start a mentor program here! Although I am very excited about my new position as Director of Restorative Justice for the San Bernardino Diocese, I truly enjoyed working with you in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and I will miss you very much! It was a privilege to work with you in the important ministry of outreach to our incarcerated brothers and sisters and in the Thresholds Mentor Program. Thank you so much for your dedication and hard work. You are wonderful faith filled people.

Please pray for me in my new life and ministry here. Thus far, I really like my new job but it is going to be very challenging. Prisons are **BIG BUSINESS** in California! The men's prison in Chino (about 45 minutes from here) has more people incarcerated than you have in the whole state system in New Mexico! Then the women's prison outside of Chino (in Corona) has 2,500 women! Next weekend I will go with a bus load of children from San Bernardino to visit their moms in prison and participate in an all day camp for the women and children. Believe me, I will be thinking of you as I visit jails and prisons and juvenile halls around the Diocese of San Bernardino.

I'm counting on your prayers. Know that you will always have a very special place in my heart and in my prayers. And even though there are miles between us, let us be united as we strive to live the Gospel and be the hands and face and heart of Jesus wherever we go.

With Love and Gratitude,  
Sister Sue Reif, OSF  
serif@sbdioocese.org

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours,  
no hands but yours no feet but yours.*

*Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks  
out to the world.*

*Yours are the feet with which Christ goes  
about doing good.*

*Your are the hands with which Christ blesses  
all people now.*

St. Theresa of Avila  
October 15 Feast Day



**Sister Sue Reif, OSF**

*Photo provided by Rita Lauran Lucero*

## Volunteer of the Year—Father Roberto Fenzl, O. Praem.

Each year the State Department of Corrections honors the many volunteers who work in the prison system throughout the state, and each institution chooses a “Volunteer of the Year.” For 2008 Camino Nuevo Women’s prison chose Father Roberto Fenzl for this award. Father Roberto offered Mass monthly at the prison; he also regularly conducted penitential services, and twice served as the Bishop’s representative to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation. Those were the deeds he did, but they do not come close to describing the impact he had. Father received this reward not for the number of hours logged but for the good he accomplished. Father Roberto inspired the women in Camino Nuevo to a deeper love of Jesus Christ and an appreciation for their Catholic faith. He made forgiveness come alive, as he embodied the love of Christ and made it visible. He gave them the dignity of a child of God.

Father has the gift of helping others discover the beauty inherent in life. During the first Confirmation he conducted at Camino, he interrupted the service and asked everyone to turn and look out the narrow windows. The western sky glowed red in one of those wonderful Albuquerque sunsets, and everyone witnessed God’s glory.

“Volunteer of the Year” usually goes to someone who has volunteered for years. Father Roberto is no exception. His work in prisons began in Peru over thirty years ago. In addition to his efforts at Camino Nuevo, Father also says Mass each month at the prison in Los Lunas and the Regional Detention Center in Albuquerque.



Christine Bodo gives Father Roberto a shirt from Camino Nuevo as a gift for his ministry there.

## Joe Vojtech receives Special Award

Joe Vojtech is recognized as a leader in jail ministry and his qualities and virtues are many: loving person, compassionate and sensitive to the needs of the poor, and their needs, prayerful (centering prayer daily), responsible, leader in Archdiocesan detention ministry, intelligent, articulate and loves the Church.

Joe has organized teams of 3 detention ministers to speak at the parishes, sharing their jail ministry and inviting parishioners to join them in this ministerial work. Joe and his colleagues have spoken at eight different parishes in this regard during the past two years. As a result of their efforts, new detention volunteers have been recruited, trained and now are ministering in the Jail.

Joe's presence has been invaluable to the detention ministry in the jail. The volunteer ministers turn to him when there are problems at the jail with security clearances and when a person needs to speak with the jail administrators about a problem there. He is the glue that holds a team of 10 detention ministers together in their work at the local jail.

As mentioned above, he initiated and continues to organize teams of detention ministers to speak at local parishes giving witness to their jail ministry and invite others to respond to the Gospel mandate—"when I was in jail, you came to visit me". Matthew 25

Joe has recruited Spanish speaking volunteers to minister at the jail. The Hispanic detention ministers are part of his team and frequently talk about ways to reach the Hispanic, African-American, Native American population in jail.

Joe, besides his outstanding work in detention ministry, is an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist in his parish, taking Holy Communion to the sick and homebound. Joe has served on various parish committees. He has also served on an Archdiocesan Selection Committee for Pastoral Outreach Staff. Joe has a deep faith that he nurtures through daily prayer and regular attendance and participation in Sunday Mass. He has ongoing positive impact on his fellow detention ministers who turn to him for advice and counsel. He also has positively influenced the lives of the incarcerated men that he carries out a Communion Service for every two weeks at the jail. He recently told me of an inmate in the jail that he ministered to and maintained communication with after the offender's release. Joe's encouragement and support for this man, has helped him reintegrate nicely back into society.



## UP-COMING DATES AND EVENTS:

Thresholds Program is still in need of volunteers to become mentees to the newly released prisoners. Please contact Carl Koestner at 301-9030.

Saturday, December 20, 2008 The 20th Annual Metropolitan Detention Center Children's Christmas Party for the children of BCMDC inmates. All gifts donated from the Albuquerque Community. If you would like to help or to donate a toy for a child ages 1 to 16 please call Tony Aguilar at 505-839-8734, or you may take the toy to Risen Savior Parish, 7701 Wyoming Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109. Thank you for your generosity.

YDDC will have a Christmas Party On Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00 PM at 4000 Edith Blvd. NE, Albuquerque. If you are interested in helping call the Office of Pastoral Outreach at 831-8174

Sexual Misconduct Workshop will be held on Monday, December 15, 2008 at the Catholic Center, 4000 St. Joseph's Pl. NW, Albuquerque at 6:00 PM.

The Detention Day Retreat is scheduled for January 31, 2009 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. This day is a special way to say thank you to those who are ministering in the prison and jail. It will be held at the Catholic Center, 4000 St. Joseph's Place NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120



## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR.

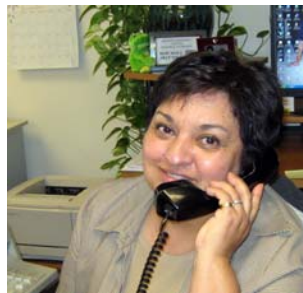
We in the Office of Pastoral Outreach Ministries wish all of you many blessings and wonderful things for the New Year and we thank God for each one of you who make this Office a successful one. We are grateful for the gift of you!

We are here to serve you as a team and we ask for your prayers that together we may all serve God and the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

We have had a transition in our office, as many of you know, so we introduce ourselves to those of you who do not know us ...



Deacon Steve Rangel, Director  
of Office of Pastoral Outreach  
*Photo provided by Rita Lauran Lucero*



Rosalie Romero,  
Part time Secretary  
*Photo provided by Rita Lauran Lucero*



Deacon Mike Wesley,  
Part time Secretary  
*Photo provided by Rita Lauran Lucero*

Detention Ministry Day pictures  
Continued



Archbishop Michael sharing with Audrey  
Klaurens and Lolita Montoya

Adán Carriaga ↗

Sister Kay Wagner, OSF  
leads a workshop →

Bishop Ricardo Ramirez shares with  
Participants. ↓



*Thanks to all of you who joined  
us on that day! You are the light  
of the world to many.*

Dear Fellow Ministers,

My wife, Egda and I began going to the Sandoval County Detention Center (SCDC) more than three years ago. SCDC holds less than 200 inmates housed in seven separate “pods” or compounds, and is located east of route 528 and south of route 550. We do a Communion Service, lasting from 25 to 45 minutes, with three, maybe four groups of inmates from 8:30 to 11:00 AM on Sunday mornings.

We started with two others, but with recruiting, our troop has swelled to twelve, including two other married couples, two deacons and some other individuals, women as well as men. The facility has only two rooms available for our use. They are big enough to hold maybe a dozen people, but have only 4 or 5 chairs. Our access to the inmates is further limited by the facility’s requirement that we can see only one pod at a time, with even further restrictions within some pods, and ultimately by some inmates being in solitary confinement. So, we get to see anywhere from one to ten inmates per session, we never know beforehand. We each average three sessions per visit. In order to see as many “groups” as possible, our team members cover both rooms, with a Spanish speaking minister in at least one of the two rooms. The size of our group has allowed us to develop this team approach to the ministry, and to be free three Sundays out of four to celebrate the Eucharist in our own parish. We think that has preserved us from burn-out and from separation from our home communities.

Many aspects of prison ministry militate against our service being a rich liturgical experience: the stale air, cramped quarters, and no chairs, in general a drab setting. What limits the power of the Eucharist more than anything, I think, is the relative unavailability of the sacrament of reconciliation. For some time we have managed to scare up a priest or two for the seasons of Lent and Advent. More recently, one of those helpful priests made a promising suggestion that you might want to try. We have approached the dean of the local group of parishes to help us recruit and organize a number of priests of the deanery to visit our facility for confessions on a monthly basis. That way, no priest will have to visit the jail more than once or twice a year. We think that would be an important, but now weak, link in our invitation to inmates to share in the Eucharist.

Most importantly, what redeems the time spent in those meager settings is the great faith in and hunger for the Word of those who come regardless.

Michael and Egda Delaney  
Parishioners from  
Our Lady of Sorrows  
Bernalillo



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## REHABILITATION IN THE JAIL

May the Lord shine his grace on the 53 Catholics who do jail ministry here at the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center. My name is Adán Carriaga, Division Manager of the DWI Addiction Treatment Programs. We treat 2,300 persons afflicted with the disease of addiction here in the county jail.

I am honored to be Catholic, attended San Felipe de Neri Catholic School as a child and go to Sunday Mass at San Felipe Parish. Being a recovering addict myself for the past 20 years and believing in the prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi "it is better to give than to receive" has provided my life with a tremendous Spiritual satisfaction.

Let me explain a little. We work with people who have lost hope, who have a broken spirit and who society has turned their backs on. Many have been to churches and find people looking down their nose at them. Most have burned the bridges of their family's friends etc. Many times I will walk in the Unit and say, "Did anyone tell you that they love you today? The response is usually something like "No one has said that to me in a long time"; I usually respond with "well I do". Many times it brings tears to a so-called hardcore man.

Being a professional in the field, but also with my Catholic upbringing there are a few things I do know. Jesus' mission on earth and the one he left us with is to include as many as possible in the church, not to exclude. He didn't turn his back on anyone, he said that we should Love one another. I also realize that just because I go to church on Sunday that that doesn't make me a better person than the person sitting in jail. God loves us all equally, and the Lord knows that the most sincere prayer may just be coming from that jail bunk on a Sunday morning. I thank the Catholic ministry for coming into the jail and helping carry the message of hope and freedom. Archbishop Sheehan has humbled me as I have grown to know him. You see he comes to visit the DWI Addiction Treatment Program every Ash Wednesday and gives ashes to the inmates in early recovery. I say, gee he probably gets tons of requests to be at big Churches to do this and yet he is here with the sick, the so-called weaklings of the world, the people Jesus would serve. I am glad I am Catholic, I am grateful that my Mother Ruth Ulivarri-Carriaga, my late suegra Elvira Trujillo- Cordova; the Sisters of Charity during my school days at San Felipe, Father Jaramillo, Steve Hay, Bob and Judy Ruth, my Nina Rosana Sedillo; Nino Pat Cervantes and Nina Angela Cervantes; my Sister Mary Gonzales, the jail Ministry all for being a living example of how to love, forgive and to serve the Lord and our fellow man. May God Bless all of the Jail Ministry persons who give so much of their precious time in efforts to help others find the path of salvation and freedom from active addiction that can only come from the Holy Trinity. And yes, thanks to the Parishes who open your doors the 12 step fellowships to have meetings in your facilities so that addicts, any addict can find the love of the Lord again.

Please keep the Jail Ministries in your prayers; they are purveyors of the healing love of the Lord. I certainly thank all of them for teaching me what it means to be humble.

Adán Carriaga  
Division Manager,  
DWI Addiction Recovery Program  
Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center

## **JESUS, LIGHT OF THE WORLD, CHALLENGES US TO LET OUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS.**

John 8:12—Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Mt. 5: 14-16—”You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”



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