

Hi Fellow Clergy Brothers and Sisters in Ministry,

Have you given consideration to becoming involved in prison ministry?

Kairos Prison Ministry offers an opportunity to respond to God's call to visit his people - and Him - in prison. Kairos is structured similar to other "three day weekends," such as the Walk to Emmaus and Cursillo. The Goal of Kairos Prison Ministry is to build Christian Community within the institution. Kairos is active at Toledo Correctional Institution (ToCI), and can use your help in building and sustaining the Christian community within ToCI.

The primary purpose of this letter is to invite you to serve on a Kairos team. We are in need of clergy men to serve on weekend teams at ToCI. (Clergy women can serve at Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW), at Marysville.) There are two weekends per year at ToCI for inmates who have not previously participated in a Kairos weekend, and numerous other regular continuing activities throughout the year for those who have. The next two Weekends are March 26-29 and September 24-27 of this year.

Other ways you can assist Kairos Prison Ministry include informing your congregations of the following:

We invite people to pray for the men to open themselves to the work of the Holy Spirit and for the success of each weekend before, during, and after each Kairos weekend is essential.

Participation in the 72-hour prayer vigil is needed. People can sign up on-line or via a team member. A chart is displayed during the Kairos weekend showing the first names of people praying for the Weekend and its participants in each one half hour time slot during the "72 hour" weekend.

There is a need for volunteer lay team members. For Kairos, unlike Emmaus, people can feel free to volunteer to serve on Kairos teams. Individuals are encouraged to let it be known that they would like to serve. In most instances a new volunteer will be able to serve on a team within six months, depending on timing relative to upcoming weekends and satisfactory completion of the required ODRC (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction) paperwork and briefing. Each team is expected to have about 20 percent new members. Having been on a "three day weekend" (e.g., the Walk to Emmaus) is preferred, but not required.

Individuals are invited to attend the graduation (closing) ceremony on Sunday evening. It is open to the public (men and women). People attending the graduation help move the Weekend participants closer to God by helping them understand that they really are important to God and that people do care about them. An application for attendance is available on-line or from any team member.

Donations of home-baked-and-prayed-over cookies are needed for each Weekend. We take about 6000 dozen of these cookies into the institution for each Kairos Weekend.

Monetary donations are appreciated. Each weekend costs about \$6000. That money is raised by the team members through donation.

Teams are available to come and make a presentation to your congregation and/or to groups within your congregation.

To volunteer, or for additional information, please contact me, our outreach coordinator Tom Grogan at outreach@kairostoledo.com, or any of the Advisory Council members listed on our web site, www.kairostoledo.com. (Click on the DOCUMENTS tab, then Advisory Council members.)

Thank you for your consideration and for your continuing support!

God bless!

Tom Moyer
Clergy Liaison/Spiritual Director
ToCI Kairos Advisory Council