



**Order of Malta Federal Association**

*Then the king will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'*        Matthew 25:34-36

In 2012 the Grand Master requested that all three U.S. Associations become known for a particular work- prison ministry. A Federal Association task force was formed to explore how our association might answer this call. The task force issued a report from which a number of principles emerged. One of those principles was that, *"Prison ministry should engage every member of the Federal Association in some way."*

I will be the first to concede that this does not come naturally to me. With rare exception, they deserve to be justly punished. I do not know any prisoners. But then again...

Jesus was a prisoner. So was John the Baptist, and Peter, and Paul. When I find myself saying, "Yes, but..." I hear the whisper of *mercy*. One thing we share with the imprisoned is the need for God's mercy. Let us be merciful, too. We receive God's mercy, not because we are good, but because God is good.

We can start our engagement in prison ministry the way we start all things- with prayer. Challenge yourself to add those caught up in the criminal justice system to your daily prayers- prisoners, their families, their victims, their victims' families, guards, those released from prison, and all those who minister to them.

Give some serious prayerful thought as to why we are called to visit those in prison, and how we might answer that call.

**Mass  
November 17, 2014  
6:00 p.m.  
All Saints Catholic Church  
215 E 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Houston, TX 77021**

**Followed by potluck dinner and presentation from Fr. Ron Cloutier,  
Chaplain for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston**