



Prodigal Sons and Daughters: Easing the Transition from Incarceration to Home

Fast facts on prisoner reentry

At the start of 2008, 2,319,258 adults were held in American prisons or jails, or one in every 99.1 men and women. The United States leads the world in both the number and percentage of its population that is incarcerated.

Nearly 650,000 people are released from state and federal prison annually. This number does not include people released from county jail facilities.

In New York, 23,000 prisoners will be released each year. In Monroe County, 1000 state prisoners and more than 1500 jail inmates are released every year.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, 30% of people released from prison are rearrested in the first six months following release, 44% in the first year, and 67.5% in the first three years.

Ex-offenders who receive supportive service after release have substantially lower recidivism rates. In Rochester, Catholic Family Center's "Prodigal Sons and Daughters" program has a recidivism rate of less than 18 percent among its clients.

Because of state budget cuts and the number of state prison inmates who are now completing their drug sentences imposed during the Rockefeller Drug Laws of the 1980s, communities in our diocese will experience an influx of ex-offenders seeking to build new lives.

The cost of incarcerating an inmate in a New York State prison is \$44,000 per year. New York spends \$2.6 billion on corrections, or 5.1 percent of the budget.

In the past 20 years, according to the FBI, violent-crime rates fell by about 25 percent, yet our incarceration rates have ballooned.

More than half of the 1.4 million adults incarcerated in state and federal prisons are parents of minor children.

Source: Re-entry Subcommittee, Diocesan Public Policy Committee, Rochester, NY, 2009