

# The Paraclete

A publication of the Restorative Justice Ministry of the Cathedral of the Annunciation

Vol. 1, No. 2

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Editor's Note...

Mea culpa, mea culpa  
...stuff happens! This issue of *The Paraclete* is somewhat late due to several *raison d'etre*, some of which are personal and some are just plain ordinary "didn't get it done, didn't have the time", however, we hope that you will overlook this minor peccatum.

This issue will focus on our Detention Ministry and will include information on our prisons via a California Department of Corrections (CDC) fact sheet.

We were quite pleased with the response to the first issue of *The Paraclete*. Bishop Blaire sent us a nice note and others provided nice comments as well as suggestions. We thank you and ask that you continue to share your thoughts with us.



## DETENTION MINISTRY

Approximately one-third of those incarcerated in California Institutions identify themselves as Catholics; not practicing Catholics, but nonetheless, Catholics. And many, if not most of them feel alienated from God, their families, the community...and the church. And for some inmates, they will meet and have a positive experience with the chaplain and the volunteers. This positive experience sometimes leads to a desire to participate more fully in what "their church" has to offer, whether it is attending services or classes that prepare them to receive the sacraments.

"Lord, when did we see you naked and clothe you, or ill or in prison and visit you? And He will answer, ...whenever you did this for one of the least important of these...you did it for me."

Catholic volunteers involved in detention ministry are estimated to be only about 5%; others place this figure at a much lower 2%. Our Catholic inmates are served by one Catholic chaplain at each of the institutions in our diocese. And that is not always the case because some chaplain positions go unfilled. For example, our local Division of Juvenile Justice in southeast Stockton (formerly known as the California Youth Authority - "CYA") has 3 facilities, 2 of which has only one chaplain attempting to serve both. Thus, volunteers become an integral part of ministering to those imprisoned.

(Please see DETENTION, page 5)

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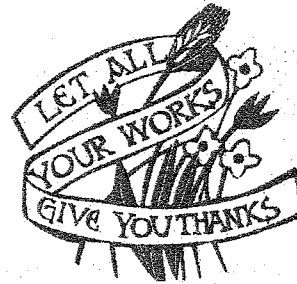
## *The Paraclete*

*The Paraclete* is published quarterly (more or less) and is the official publication of the Restorative Justice Ministry of the Cathedral of the Annunciation.



Editor

425 W. Magnolia Street  
Stockton, California 95203  
Phone: 209.463.1305 Fax 209.463.0807  
E-mail: [wachuseh@msn.com](mailto:wachuseh@msn.com)



## Restorative Justice Ministry Prayer

Jesus,

Look with compassion  
on those in prison.

Heal the broken,  
soften the hard heart,  
console the innocent,  
and reveal Your presence  
to those that seek You.

Jesus,

Heal their victims.

Give Your peace and perseverance  
to their families.

Impart the gifts of mercy  
to those who judge.

Grant patience and wisdom  
to those who guard,  
and give Your special grace  
to those who minister in Your name.

Amen

## DOLL RAFFLE

The Restorative Justice Ministry (RJM) will be selling raffle tickets after all Masses on the weekends of April 22-23 and April 29-30 for a lovely 28-inch handmade porcelain doll valued at \$300. The doll will be dressed as a little girl receiving her First Holy Communion.

Kathleen Equinoa, a member of the RJM committee made the doll. In the past, Ms. Equinoa has made and donated dolls for other community fundraisers, including those for the Mary Graham Guild, the Stockton Interfaith Caregivers' Program, and Hospice of San Joaquin.

A limited number of tickets will be available for a donation of \$1.<sup>00</sup> per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5.<sup>00</sup>. Don't miss your chance to win this unique and beautiful doll.

Money received will assist in funding the various projects of the Restorative Justice Ministry in our parish. The drawing will take place on May 2, 2006. Need not be present to win! Winner will be notified.

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The Restorative Justice Ministry Year-end Report for the year 2005 is available for your perusal. Contact *The Paraclete* for your copy.

*Dear Restorative Justice Committee -*

*Thanks for the 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the Paraclete and for the important ministry from the Cathedral. Restorative Justice is a priority of the California Catholic Conference. I'm grateful for the leadership of our Cathedral Community.*

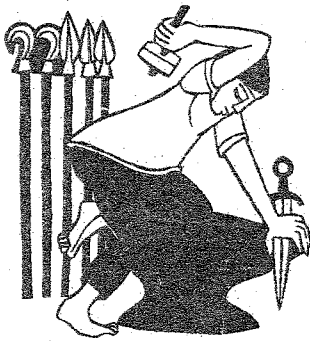
*(Signed) + Bishop Stephen Blaire*

# Prophet Micah...

## Patron of Social Justice

"Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God." -Micah 6:8

There is little known about the prophet Michah. In fact, so little that if you ask most any veteran (Catholic) social justice activist if they can name the patron of social justice, 9 times out of 10, they won't know who he is.



Born in 757 BCE, Micah was a minor prophet. He came from the small obscure village of Moresheth in the foothills of Southwest Judah. It is not known how Micah became a prophet.

A farmer, Micah's background was that of a peasant, and as such, he was familiar with the injustices suffered by the poor at the hands of the rich. Not known for his diplomacy, Micah often spoke out in unpolished and blunt language, against every kind of injustice - those of the leaders, the priests and prophets, as well as the common people. It is because of his constant demand for justice as the true worship of God that Micah is known as the prophet of social justice. Micah lived around the same time as another importer and the better-known prophet named Isaiah. Micah and Isaiah shared similar views and were in strong agreement in that they both wanted to promote peace.

Those involved in peace movement activities often cite the biblical passage of "turning [sic] their swords into plowshares", however, they are often unaware they are quoting the lesser known prophet Micah.

For from Zion will go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He will judge between many peoples and impose terms on strong and distant nations:

They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. One nation shall not raise the sword against another nor shall they train for war again. And each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid...

Micah 4:2-4

Micah believed in a compassionate and merciful God. He believed that a person could repent and be close to God again even after having made a mistake.

It is written that he was the first to talk about the importance of living an ethical life. He strongly encouraged us to, *Do justice and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.*

For more on Micah, check out Micah the Prophet by Hans Walter Wolff (1981) or A History of Prophecy in Israel by Joseph Blenkinsopp (1983)

# Social Justice Notz



-Deacon Mike Wofford

## 'JUST' Thoughts

At the time of drafting this article, our state had executed two men and one still faces the carrying out of the death penalty in the future. This surge in the use of capital punishment confirms the statement of our bishops in this admonishment found in the statement of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), "A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death":

*"This is a time to teach clearly, encourage reflection, and call for common action in the Catholic community to bring about an end to the use of the death penalty in our land"*

### Teach Clearly:

Catholic social teaching calls each of us to respect the 'life and dignity of every human being'. Even when a person denies that respect to another we, as a people of faith, must still recognize that their dignity is God-given and is not something that is earned or lost through their behavior. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, recourse to the death penalty is not absolutely excluded and the death penalty is not intrinsically evil.

Nevertheless the Church teaches that, in today's society, the state has the non-lethal means to protect its citizens and should not use the death penalty. No matter how heinous the crime, if society can protect itself without ending a human life, it should do so. The facts support that modern society does have the means of effectively suppressing crime, and rendering criminals harmless, without resorting to the death penalty. In his encyclical *The Gospel of Life*, Pope

John Paul II asserted that, "The growing number of countries adopting provisions to abolish the death penalty or suspend its application is proof of the fact that cases in which it is absolutely necessary to execute the offender are very rare, if not practically non-existent."

### Encourage Reflection:

As a society, the choices we make and the acts we perform, shape and define who we are. We must base our actions on prayerful discernment rather than emotional reactivity. Compassion calls us to share in the horror, the anger, the loss and the pain experienced by victims, and the families of victims, of crime. But true discernment calls us to look at the realities of how damaging the use of a punishment of death is to the greater good of all God's people. The unnatural ending of any human life perpetuates a culture of death, rather than life, and ultimately diminishes us all.

### The Call for Common Action:

Pope John Paul II made a direct appeal, to all people of faith, to end the use of the death penalty in stating,

*"The new evangelization calls for followers of Christ who are unconditionally pro-life: who will proclaim, celebrate and serve the Gospel of life in every situation. A sign of hope is the increasing recognition that the dignity of human life must never be taken away, even in the case of someone who has done great evil...I renew the appeal I made...for a consensus to end the death penalty, which is both cruel and unnecessary." (Papal Mass in St. Louis, MO, 1999)*

In living out our faith each of us must pursue the good of everyone and of society as a whole. If we remain silent and complacent while the state, in our names and with our taxes, ends a human life despite having non-lethal alternatives, it suggests that we condone addressing violence with violence. California currently has over 600 people, on death row, waiting for execution. Statistics show that a good number of them, using updated technology, will have their case reviewed, will be found to have not been guilty of the crime that placed them on death row, and they will be released. (See NOTZ page 5)

**DETENTION** (continued from front page)

The volunteers assist the chaplain in bearing witness of God's unconditional love for all, especially those considered "outcasts from society."

In the October 2003 Vision Statement, Effective Social Ministry In the Diocese of Stockton to Bring About Peace and Justice" had this to say about Restorative Justice Ministry: "We simply cannot close our eyes to the challenge of providing ministry and advocating for the prisoner and the victims in our midst. How do we insure that criminal have a real opportunity to change their lives? How do we re-orient and welcome prisoners back into the community...how do we care for the families of those who are incarcerated?" The Restorative Justice Ministry has taken that to heart and responded in its Mission Statement:

*We are called by God and challenged by the teachings of our church to be our brothers' keeper and that whatever we do to the least of our brothers/sisters we do for our Lord. We accept the challenge and ask for God's blessing as we strive to do his work on earth.*

We ask for your support and prayers as we attempt to fulfill our ministry's mission:

- to assist and advocate for victims;
- to assist in bringing children to visit their incarcerated mothers;



- to be a link between the incarcerated and the community;
- to help the inmate reintegrate into our community and church;
- and
- to support our peace and correctional officers.

**NOTZ** (continued from page 4)

Recent history shows that one person is released from death row for every two that are executed. In discerning our action we should focus on these grim realities.

In their statement, "A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death", the U.S. Conference of



Catholic Bishops call us to face this unavoidable moral challenge and to take actions that:

- Urge public officials to support measures that

restrict the death penalty or provide alternatives.

- Help reform the criminal justice system to offer swift, sure, fair, and effective justice that respects the rights of victims and their families and those accused of crime.
- Transform prisons from warehouses of human failure and seedbeds of violence to places of responsibility, rehabilitation, and restoration.
- Reject all things that promote a culture of death, and do all things possible to build a culture of life.

As God's people, as a people dedicated to establishing a world of peace and justice...and life, let us hold fast to the Word of God.

*"I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live."*  
(Dt 30:19).



**Note:** For information on Death Penalty Facts, The California Catholic Conference Statement or the US Catholic Bishops Statement, contact *The Paraclete* at [wachuseh@msn.com](mailto:wachuseh@msn.com) or Deacon Mike Wofford, 209.952.0363 or 916.552.9558.

# California Department Of Corrections Facts and Figures

## About the Department

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) operates all state prisons, oversees a variety of community correctional facilities, and supervises all parolees during their re-entry into society.

**Budget:** \$7.4 billion (2005-2006 Budget Act)  
**Avg. yearly cost:** per inmate, \$33,581; per parolee, \$3,549  
**Staff:** 49,957 currently employed including 43,076 in Institutions, 3,073 in Parole, and 3,808 in Administration (about 31,225 sworn peace officers)  
**Total offenders under CDCR jurisdiction:** 305,083. One year change: +4273 (1.4%)

## About the State Budget

**CDCR**  
While it is the largest in terms of staffing, the CDCR operating budget is just 5.7% of the state General Fund in the 2005-2006 Budget Act.

## About Prison Capacity

As of February 2002, the maximum prison capacity was approximately 170,100. Upon completion of the administrative segregation housing units and the Delano II maximum-security institution, the California Department of Correction's maximum housing capacity will increase to approximately 176,500

## About Prisons

**Facilities:** 33 state prisons ranging from minimum to maximum custody; 40 camps, minimum custody facilities located in wilderness areas where inmates are trained as wild-land firefighters; 12 community correctional facilities (CCF's); and 5 prisoner mother facilities.

## Population: All Institutions

**Prisons:** 156,353 **Camps:** 4,420 **Community Facilities:** 5,268 **Outside CDC:** 1,924

**Top 5 counties:** LA; 33%, San Diego 8%, San Bernardino 7%; Riverside 6%; Orange 5%

<http://www.corr.ca.gov>

## Characteristics:

**Males:** 93% **Females:** 7% **Parole Violators:** 11%

**Race:** 28% white; 29% black; 37% Hispanic; 6% other. **Offense:** 50% persons; 21% property; 21% drugs; 8% other. **Lifers:** 28,470 **LWOP's:** 3,327 **Condemned:** 650 **Average Reading Level:** 7th grade; **Average Age:** 36;

**Average Sentence:** 47.7 months;  
**Average Time Served:** 24.8 months.  
**Commitment Rate:** 445.4 per 100,000 California population  
**Assault Rate (per 100 ADP):** 3.5 in '04, 3.5 in '03, 4.6 in '02; 4.6 in '01  
**Escape Rate (per 100 ADP):** 0.01 in '04, 0.01 in '03, 0.01 in '02; 0.01 in '01

## About Parole

**FACILITIES:** 19 re-entry centers, and 2 restitution facilities. Most are operated by public or private agencies under contract to CDCR. Parole staff monitors these facilities.

## OFFICES:

**190 parole units and sub-units** in 84 locations.  
**Parole outpatient clinics** and 150 clinicians.

## POPULATION:

**Total:** 114,163;  
**Paroled to county of last legal residence:** 90%;  
Other: 10%  
**Region I (North/Central Valley):** 26,023  
**Region II (Bay Area/North, Central Coast):** 22,392  
**Region III (LA County):** 35,914  
**Region IV (San Diego/S. CA)** 29,834  
**Return rate (per 100 average daily pop) with new prison term:** 14%  
**Return rate (per 100 average daily pop) as parole violator:** 46%  
**Top 5 counties:** LA 32%; San Bernardino 7%; Orange 7% ; San Diego 6%; Riverside 6%

## CHARACTERISTICS:

**Males:** 89% **Females:** 11%

**Race:** 32% white; 25% black; 38%Hispanic; 5% other

**Offense:** 26% persons; 30% property; 31% drugs; 13% other  
**Median Age:** 36

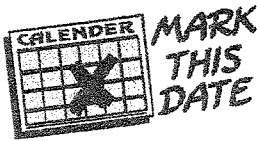
# From the pipeline...

## INCARCERATION AND RESTORATION LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

March 2006 Session Update

BILL NO.	AUTHOR	TITLE & SUMMARY	STATUS
AB 1942	Nava (D- Santa Barbara)	<b>Arrests:</b> Would develop protocols by law enforcement and other entities, pertaining to arresting caretaker parents or guardians of minors, to ensure the safety and well-being of the minor	Assembly Public Safety – no hearing set
AB 1982	Bass ( D- Los Angeles)	<b>Anti-Recidivism Grants:</b> – Would create a competitive grant program through the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for community-based organizations to establish and operate reentry services for inmates.	Assembly Public Safety – no hearing set
AB 2035	Cogdill (R- Modesto)	<b>Conservation camps – Madera County</b> – Require to house up to 120 inmates trained as conservation camp inmates at the Central California Women’s Facility or the Valley State Prison for Women.	Assembly Public Safety –no hearing set
AB 2066	Lieber (D- Mountain View)	<b>Corrections: Female Inmates</b> – Would require the Legislature to codify the recommendations of the department’s Gender Responsive Strategies Commission. The Gender Commission is committed to create an environment that reflects an understanding of the realities of women and girl’s lives and addresses their issues.	No set hearing
AB 2192	Bass (D- Los Angeles)	<b>CalWORKs:</b> Provide that a person convicted of a drug-related felony may be eligible for CalWORKs benefits under certain conditions.	Assembly Human Services – no hearing set
AB 2266	Lieber (D- Mountain View)	<b>Death Penalty: moratorium</b> – Would establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty until certain criteria are met.	Assembly Public Safety – no hearing set
AB 2925	Montanez (D- San Fernando)	<b>Victims: automated notification</b> – Express the intent of the legislature to enact legislation to establish a statewide automated victim identification and information system to better inform victims of the custody status or release of their assailants.	No hearing set
SB 1119	Migden (D- San Francisco)	<b>Reprieves, pardons and commutations of sentence:</b> This bill would provide that the Judicial Counsel and Supreme Court shall adopt competency standards for appointed counsel for clemency proceedings.	No hearing set
SB 1453	Speier (D – Hillsborough)	<b>Reduction of prison term: participation in imprison drug treatment program</b> – Would provide that any inmate shall earn a 2-day reduction on their term for every day completed in an imprison drug treatment program.	No hearing set
SB 1521	Romero ( D- Los Angeles)	<b>Prisons: media access</b> – Would require the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to permit news representatives to interview inmates.	No hearing set
SB 1589	Romero ( D – Los Angeles)	<b>Division of Juvenile Justice: specialized programming</b> – Require the DJJ to explore option to provide specialized programming outside the division for high risk or high need juvenile offenders.	No hearing set
SB 1642	Romero (D-Los Angeles)	<b>Sentencing: three strikes</b> – This bill would provide that if the current felony is not a serious or violent felony the person would be sentenced to the enhancement under the 3-strikes provisions that is applicable to a person with one prior conviction.	No hearing set

# Restorative Justice & Social Justice Ministry Team Meetings



April 22/23 Doll Raffle Ticket Sales  
April 20/30 Doll Raffle Ticket Sales  
May 2<sup>nd</sup> - Raffle Drawing - Winners will be notified  
May 21<sup>st</sup>, 11 AM - Peace & Correctional Officers Mass

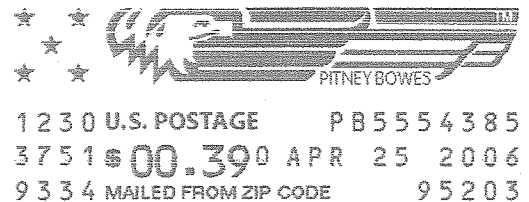
Restorative Justice Ministry - 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month  
Social Justice Ministry Team - 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month

Meetings\* of the Cathedral's Restorative Justice & Social Justice Ministry team meetings are open to all parishioners. Regular meetings of the Restorative Justice committee are held at 7 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Parish House, The Social Justice team meets on the second Wednesday of the month also at the Parish House, 425 W. Magnolia Street in Stockton, Ca.

The Ministries are acutely aware that they represent the parish in the areas of social justice, and thusly, it encourages questions, comments and ideas from all parishioners of the Cathedral of the Annunciation

\*Meeting dates subject to change. For specific meeting information, contact the Parish House at 425 W. Magnolia Street, Stockton, California 95203. Telephone: 463.1305

*The Paraclete*  
Restorative Justice Ministry  
425 W. Magnolia Street  
Stockton, California 95203



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*We cannot celebrate a faith we do not practice. We cannot proclaim a gospel we do not live.*

-USCB

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