

Friends THROUGH Pens



The La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, in partnership with the Order of Malta, is pleased to announce the launching of a new program to provide an opportunity to be involved in prison ministry right from the comfort and safety of your own homes.



Friends Through Pens is a pen pal mentoring program sponsored by the Order of Malta. As a volunteer, you would commit to anonymous monthly written correspondence to an inmate who has already been screened by the program. These inmates often feel alone and forgotten, and your inspiring words of comfort fill them with hope. Incarcerated participants have agreed not to request special favors from you (financial assistance, romantic involvement, personal contact) and all correspondence is exchanged directly through the Order of Malta headquarters to ensure your safety and privacy. Your personal letter is a work of mercy, expressing compassion, understanding and guidance to rebuild inmates' self-esteem. As a prison pen pal mentor, you are participating in the valuable act of restorative justice, because studies have proven that pen pal mentoring decreases the rate of recidivism and helps to positively form the character of those who will be returning to society. Program instructions and sample letters are all provided in the Pen Pal Mentoring Guidance Package once you agree to volunteer in the program. For more information, please contact Lorraine



Riedl at kendallriedls@gmail.com or visit the following link: <https://orderofmaltaamerican.org/spirituality-in-action/prison/pen-pal/>



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