
DAILY INSPIRATION

BROTHER BILL CAWLEY CONTRIBUTING WRITER



“I was in prison, and you came to me.” (Matthew 25:36)

Jail Ministry volunteers and staff visit often in the Justice Center. Studies show that relationships reduce recidivism. Jail deputies, probably the least acknowledged of public officials, are trained to develop appropriate relationships but are overwhelmed by duties and the number they supervise.

Jail Ministry provides a supportive presence. Most of those incarcerated focus on accusations but not the harm inflicted. Restorative Justice circles enable victims, freely choosing, to express the full extent of the crime’s harm. Only then can an offender take full responsibility, which leads to healing and rehabilitation to become a contributing community member.

Bill Cawley is a brother of the Sacred Heart, committed to the compassion of God. He coordinates the Jail Ministry, which serves detainees of the Onondaga County Justice Center, and collaborates with the Bridges Coalition.