

## Helping Criminals to Repent

The best opportunity we have to help a criminal turn away from his criminal(sinful) ways comes after he or she is arrested, and sent to prison. Prisons offer the controlled environment which is necessary for us to help criminals who wish to change their lives. The Catholic Church has the most effective means(worship, prayer life, sacramental life of grace, and moral teaching) to nourish a fervent desire for the most merciful, truthful and charitable life possible.

Prisoners read more and hunger more for good Catholic literature than our Catholic parishioners. To have their minds dwelling on God, and on their Catholic faith is very important. In prison, inmates are surrounded by other inmates acting and talking about criminal, or worldly concerns.

**Prisons are colleges for crime**, and inmates become more active and more dangerous criminals; unless they pray, study, and live their Catholic faith. To have their minds dwelling on God and on their Catholic faith, is most important.

Jesus Christ said, "*But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart*"(Matthew 5:28).

A person already is caught up in sin, if he doesn't avoid the near occasion of sin. If a prisoner isn't dwelling on God, and on things which nourish the spirit, he will be dwelling on things of the world which create desires in his heart for what gives pleasure to the flesh. He will then be ignoring the needs of his spirit for love, truth, faith, hope, etc.