



*Serving Others **In the Margins** Prison Ministry of Upstate New York Newsletter Fall 2024*



PMUNY's New Mission Statement: Grounded in the Christian tradition, sharing Christ's hope, love and forgiveness, we encourage and support the hearts of those who live and work in the incarcerated communities we serve.

Palanca Letters for PMUNY

For those of you who have made Cursillo or participated in a Residents Encounter Christ (REC) retreat in a prison, you may remember a one page letter given to participants encouraging them in their spiritual growth... a way of sending a bit of leverage, a jolt, a booster, a reality check.

And if you've taken the opportunity to look at the PMUNY website, there's a nice explanation of Palanca. This is a very good example of what a letter could look like:

You'll notice that it's not just the handwritten letter that you send. It is also the Palanca that you DO...

Did you recite a rosary (or two), a Divine Mercy chaplet, another similar prayer?

Did you offer some perhaps tedious or mundane "chore" - Laundry, dishes, your commute, etc., for the intentions of the retreat.

Did you offer some sacrifice as you might during lent?

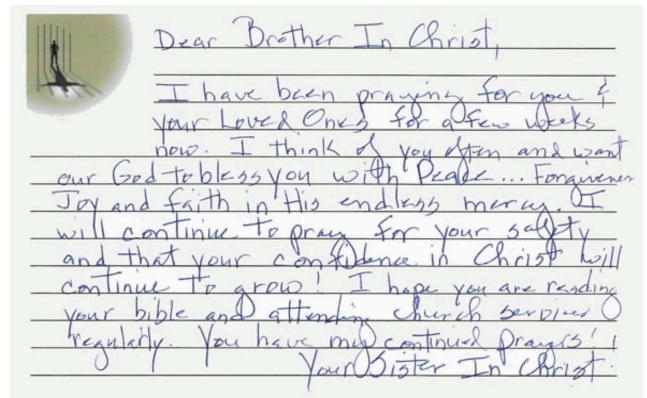
Fasting? Having a second helping of salad instead of pizza a second slice of pizza? Passing on dessert options for a week? Be creative. Any small sacrifice for your retreat provides leverage.....

Include these in your letter so there is both an active and written encouragement, advice, or consolation in your writing.

On the PMUNY website, you can learn more about the REC retreats or the one day retreats. If you should choose to be part of this Palanca ministry, you can send your letter, signed with just your first name or appropriate closure, directly to the PMUNY PO Box 10106 Rochester New York 14610. We will make sure your letter gets delivered to the upcoming REC or Day of Retreat participants.

When you think of the varied ways you might become involved in prison ministry, Palanca may be a rewarding service you might do from the comfort of your own home.

Prison Ministry of Upstate New York (PMUNY) is a sponsored ministry of Ecumenical Ministries of Perinton, Inc., a New York not-for-profit corporation with 501©3 status.





Hello Friends & Family of Prison Ministry of Upstate New York!

We are delighted to share this Fall 2024 Newsletter with you. We hope it motivates each and every loyal prison ministry volunteer and supporter to stay in touch **and assist in recruiting others** to get involved in this meaningful and purpose-driven ministry.

Our Leadership Team met every month this past year. In addition to updating our Mission Statement we recently appointed the following individuals to lead our organization: Barb is our new Ministry Leader, Joe is our new Ministry Co-Leader, John is our new Ministry Treasurer and Jean continued to serve as our Ministry Secretary. Many thanks to each of these fine individuals for their willingness and dedication to serve in this capacity.

With the help of many individuals, church communities and organizations this past year, we have **ministered to hundreds of incarcerated individuals** in several upstate New York facilities and even one in Arizona.

Our ministries have included:

*Five 3 Day **Residents Encounter Christ** Retreats (Auburn, Attica, Wende, Wyoming and Marana) and for the first time we launched two-1 Day Spiritual Retreats (Wyoming and Wende) to accommodate DOCCS request.

*2-13 week **Houses of Healing** programs were held at Attica

*We continue to advocate for the return of the **Fully Alive program**.

Special recognition & much gratitude goes out to the **Trinity Council Knights of Columbus** for their generous donation that allowed us to purchase books, workbooks and DVD's for our Houses Of Healing ministry.

We hope you will **continue to support our ministry** in whatever way you are most able. We value the faith filled experiences you help to provide. The following is just one example of how meaningful your involvement is. As one recent incarcerated individual stated

“I ain’t ever been to anything like this before. I’ve been an incarcerated individual for 8 years and I never had 2 days like this. I’ve never loved Jesus more than I do right now.”

Thank You for Keeping Love Alive in Our World!

Sincerely,

Joyce, Former PMUNY Ministry Leader