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*"For the Lord hears the needy and does not despise  
his own people who are prisoners." Psalm 69:33*

**Jesus identifies strongly with the weak, the helpless, and the outcast. In Matthew 25:36, Jesus calls us to visit those who are in prison, recognizing in them the dignity of God's creation, no matter how far they have fallen; trusting that no one is beyond Christ's love and power to redeem. Society may intend prison to be a place of punishment, but God can use it as a place of conversion and transformation. He does not give up on those in prison, but pursues them in love.**

**The Prison Ministry of St. Brendan's provides spiritual comfort and hope to inmates at Tabor and Columbus correctional facilities in Columbus County. Volunteer ministers meet with the men every Tuesday for a communion service and a discussion on the scripture readings. The men are provided with spiritual reading material and videos on books of the Bible. Volunteers rotate visits so that the time commitment for this ministry is once a month.**

**Deacon Tom Kronyak initiated this ministry at St. Brendan 10 years ago and until 3 years ago he alone provided a Catholic presence to the men. Currently, there are 4 volunteers and one person in orientation. If you are interested in knowing more about this ministry, contact Corinne Butera at [cjbutera@atmc.net](mailto:cjbutera@atmc.net) or 910-755-6773.**

**In addition, 15 parishioners participate in writing letters to prisoners at least 3-4 times per year especially around the holidays. The letters are sent through St. Brendan's post office address. If interested, contact Rita Canfield [r.canfield@hotmail.com](mailto:r.canfield@hotmail.com) or 910-287-6649**

**Thanks to our prison ministry volunteers for preaching Jesus' gospel by their presence.**