

Kevin Connors, AUX, reflection on the Residents Encounter Christ (REC) retreat held inside the Rush City Correctional Facility the weekend of Aug 20th.

The Catholic based Greater Twin Cities Residents Encounter Christ (REC) Ministry conducted a retreat for the first time at Rush City the weekend of August 20. The REC ministry was invited into Rush City for the first time ever because the Department of Correction Administration knows of the life changing blessings this experience can bring.

There were many unknowns and obstacles as this was the first time a retreat type weekend was conducted at this level 4 facility in over 12 years. As a result of many prayers and the power of God the path was laid smooth and 28 men attended the retreat. The peace and fire of the Holy Spirit were alive as hearts of residents were strengthened, and in some cases turned, and a true brotherhood in Christ was developed inside this prison facility. I can even say staff security were affected by the love and brotherhood shared through the event.
Praise God!

The REC weekends are truly inspirational and an experience where the work of the Spirit is always present. Anyone interested who has been through a Cursillo, walk to Emmaus or Together Encounter Christ weekend can join a REC Retreat Team. The next Greater Twin Cities REC Retreat weekends are at Lino Lakes the weekend of October 29 and at Stillwater the weekend of Dec 3. Each retreat is a 3-day commitment plus time for training and reunion:

- Training usually on the Saturday prior to retreat (9am - 1:30pm);
- 3-day retreat (begins 4:00pm Friday through 9:00pm Sunday). The Team stays overnight at a local church close to the facility;
- Reunion at the facility 11:00am - 4:00pm the Saturday following the retreat.

Also, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis has launched a new initiative to assist those transitioning from prison back to society called Embrace. For information you can view an article about the Embrace program that was published in the Catholic Spirit by clicking:

<http://thecatholicspirit.com/special-sections/year-of-mercy/ham-lake-parishs-prison-ministry-aims-help-offenders-know-dignity/>

Our South Suburban Prison Ministry Committee is sponsoring someone soon to be released from prison in October to assist in their transition.

For more information about Embrace or Retreats newsletter contact Kevin Connors, AUX- kjc379@gmail.com or via phone at 952-426-8633.

God bless,
Kevin Connors