

Saint Basil Seminary  
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To Whom It May Concern,

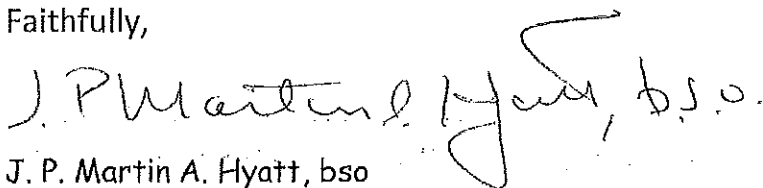
The Saint Basil Cursillo Community has been involved in prison ministry since 1988. During that time we facilitated 71 weekend retreats in several DOC facilities in Massachusetts. Our volunteers who run these retreats, called Cursillo, continue to minister at these facilities for follow up sessions. Some have been involved in other groups and religious services sponsored by the Catholic Chaplaincy. Over these years we have served several thousand men and women behind the walls. Our 'community mailing list' is over 10,000 households. Our 'email blast' list is over 3,000 households.

We raise our voices with other organizations and individuals in support of the "Proposal to Allow Post-Release Contact." Allowing volunteers and chaplains to work with former inmates in programs that are designed to respect the DOC's safety concerns, would go a long way toward assisting men and women as they return to their communities, thereby reducing recidivism.

The Massachusetts Department of Corrections states that its' mission and concern is "to promote public safety while providing care and appropriate programming in preparation for successful reentry." Approving this proposal would raise that mission and concern to an action item.

We cannot overstate the importance of this proposal. We strongly urge you, to support it and create a working group to study the issues more closely and propose new policies that reflect practical wisdom and common sense as well as safety concerns and re-entry needs. On behalf of our Secretariat, which is our governing body, I remain,

Faithfully,



J. P. Martin A. Hyatt, bso  
Spiritual Director