



October 16, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

In keeping with the heart and spirit of Pope Francis who has said, "all Christians and people of good will are called today to fight . . . [for] the human dignity of those who have been deprived of freedom," helping ex-offenders re-enter society is a major aspect of helping these persons regain a sense of human dignity.

We are joining with other organizations and individuals to support 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.

Given the Massachusetts Department of Corrections mission "to promote public safety while providing care and appropriate programming in preparation for successful reentry," this policy change would create the logical next step toward ensuring a positive experience for returning citizens and those who care about them. We urge you, in the strongest possible manner, to support this proposal to create a work group to examine the issues more closely to develop new policies that reflect wisdom, safety concerns and re-entry needs.

We are committed to standing in solidarity with the marginalized of society. Ex-offenders find it difficult to re-enter everyday life and meet with success. As Franciscan women, we need your support to help change this reality.

Sincerely,

Sr. Diana De Bruin, OSF

Sr. Marcia Lunz, OSF

A. Sylvia Anne Sheldon, OSF

Sr. Diana De Bruin, OSF
Sr. Marcia Lunz, OSF
Sr. Sylvia Anne Sheldon, OSF
ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM
SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Enclosure

3221 S. Lake Dr.
St. Francis, WI 53235-3799

414-744-1160 (tel)
414-744-7193 (fax)

www.lakeosfs.org