

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America Department of Prison Ministry

On April 6, 2017, at the Department Meetings at the Antiochian Village, the V. Rev. Fr David Randolph requested that Metropolitan JOSEPH, formalize the department as titled above, with a hierarchal bishop as an overseer. The request was approved and Bishop THOMAS was named as the overseer of the newly titled department. Teleios will now be a ministry within this department.

Teleios Ministries, a 501c3 organization, ministers to adult and juvenile offenders and their families. It also provides assistance to "at risk" youth who are often on a path to incarceration. Teleios provides education programs for those preparing for release and support systems post-release. Both Orthodox and non-Orthodox are served.

Christ clearly instructs us to minister to those in prison but few are prepared to do this. Working with offenders and ex-offenders is a difficult task. Proper training is necessary to work effectively within the system and to avoid manipulation. Teleios Ministries can fill this void by training interested individuals (both clergy and lay) across the Archdiocese to minister to this troubled population.

This past year we have worked at developing an extensive training and operations manual to be used to across the Archdiocese. The training manual is based on thirty years of jail and prison ministry experience and includes topic such as:

- Biblical mandate for ministry
- Typology of inmates
- Avoiding manipulation
- Areas of ministry
- Qualifications of volunteers
- Expectations for volunteers
- Types of facilities
- General "dos and don'ts"
- Working within differing institutions
- Institutional emergency plans of action
- Domestic Violence
- Working with families
- Networking with service organizations
- How to start a ministry

The department goals for 2017 are to identify current prison ministry within the Archdiocese and their form of outreach in order to develop a network and offer ministry training, if needed, and to explore the possibility of utilizing the Becoming Fully Human program in prison systems.

An advisory council will be developed.

This Department currently receives no funding from the Archdiocese. Very limited resources are provided from personal funds and the small Church of Christ the Saviour in South Carolina. The proposed annual budget for the department is \$28,200. The department is requesting funding to begin implementing training across the Archdiocese and thus fulfill Christ's clear command to minister to those in prison.

Respectfully submitted,
V. Rev. David J. Randolph
Department Chair
May 3, 2017

