

Paraclete CEO Ministries

(Catholic Evangelization Outreach)

Paraclete had a humble beginning in the prayer groups of St. Mary's of the Visitation in Huntingburg. Prayer group members felt lead to do more and spread the joy of the God's love throughout the area. A small but determined group formed and we started off as a movie and street evangelization ministry. We acquired a number of movie screens including a 29 foot inflatable and started showing movies at events in the area such as Celebrating Fathers and the Herbstfest in Huntingburg. We did street evangelization at the Herbstfest and other events as well. We held numerous seminars in the area such as Life in the Spirit, Divine Mercy and many others. We responded to every opportunity to spread God's word to anyone that would listen. The group grew in size. We received many requests along the way to get involved in various things but we have always been lead by prayer. Careful to discern what God wanted us to do as opposed to what we wanted to do or others wanted us to do. Over the years we have moved away from showing movies and into other areas such as prison ministry. We are still actively involved in retreats and providing speakers in the area.

Retreats and Speakers

Over the years Paraclete has hosted a wide variety of retreats tailored to the specific needs of the area. We enjoy the blessings of many gifted people who are more than willing to spread the joy of Christ through these endeavors. Life in the Spirit seminars, the Wild Goose Series, Divine Mercy retreats and many others have been hosted by Paraclete. Paraclete members developed, maintain and fund the diocesan website evansvillecharismaticrenewal.org. This website has offered an online Life in the Spirit seminar that has been used by thousands of people on every continent but Antarctica. Content overseen by the diocese travels across the globe every day.

Prison Ministry

We became involved in prison ministry from reaching out to those on the fringe of society. Many people asked why. Matthew 25: 31-46 calls on us all to seek out and care for "the least of you". Without a doubt the inmates of our prisons are the least of our society. There are advocates for the poor and hungry and for immigrants, for the homeless, for gay and transgender and on and on but there are very few for the incarcerated. Most people just feel it is best to just lock them up and throw away the key. We see things a different way. If we seek forgiveness from God we must give it and if we hope to enjoy His mercy we must show it. We at Paraclete strive to see these men and women as God sees us all. We look past all the wrong they have done and focus on the God given potential that lies untapped in all these people. God

doesn't make any junk. Each of us is created in His own image and each of us has the same God given potential. The reality of the situation is that someday nearly all of those that are incarcerated will be released. We can either become involved in changing their lives in a meaningful way and guiding them to the life that God created them to live or we can reserve a bed for them because they will be back.

Paraclete is involved in many facets of prison ministry. We co-sponsoring Reward Day events that have included hundreds of volunteers from over 20 area parishes. We also maintain ongoing clothing and book drives to be used for offender release clothing and programs such as Read to Me Dad and support the prison library. Paraclete also has volunteers that together with local clergy maintain a 7 day a week presence of Catholics inside the facility who work to engage offenders in all the dorms and segregation units on a personal level. Mentors and mentor couples work to help change the lives men on an individual basis as well. We speak to youth groups and have brought them to Branchville to hear offenders speak in hope that it will prevent them from making the same mistakes. Paraclete also administers the Branchville Garden Project. Branchville maintains over 58,000 sq. ft. of garden inside the facility. Last year it grew over 10,00 lbs of produce. Branchville officials engaged Paraclete to distribute the produce which we did over 3 counties. Enabled by grants that allowed us to purchase commercial refrigerators we will expand to 5 counties utilizing a network of agencies.

If you are interested in becoming involved in Paraclete please let us know.

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