



Cardinal Dolan Delivers Thanksgiving Week Mass at Green Haven Correctional Facility for 50th Anniversary of Chapel of St. Paul

On November 20th, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, the Archbishop of New York, delivered a mass at the Green Haven Correctional Facility in Dutchess County. Cardinal Dolan performs mass at least twice a year in New York State prisons. His Eminence hosted mass, on Thanksgiving week, for DOCCS Central Office executive staff, volunteers and staff at the Green Haven Correctional Facility, and for roughly 100 inmates of Green Haven.

The celebration was also the 50th anniversary of The Chapel of St. Paul which opened in 1967 as only the second church at the time to be built on prison grounds. Then Chaplain, Father Edward Donovan, had the vision of the church come to life after endless fundraisers and working side by side of volunteers and inmates.

St Paul's was the second chapel to be constructed on prison grounds in New York State, following the construction of the Church of St. Dismas, the Good Thief, at Clinton Correctional Facility in 1941. St. Paul's was financed through donations and fundraisers led by Father Donovan, and designed with input from inmates. Contractors, as well as inmates, staff, and community volunteers, completed construction of the \$190,000 chapel in thirteen months. The chapel was dedicated on October 13, 1967, with a mass attended by hundreds of members of the religious and local communities.

DOCCS currently has over 24 active faith groups and over 57 recognized faith groups. It is the Department's policy to extend as much spiritual assistance as possible, and to provide as many opportunities as feasible for the practice of each inmate's chosen faith, consistent with the safe and secure operations of DOCCS facilities.

[Click here](#) to see video of the Cardinal's visit.