



Offender / Victim Ministries, Inc.

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## Death Row Valentine's Day Notes

**We at Offender/Victim Ministries are working to write handwritten notes of encouragement to inmates on Death Row across the United States.**

This is a great way to remind these men that they are loved and valued by us in the community. COVID-19 restrictions have crippled not only our prison ministry, but also many prison ministries across the United States. Writing notes of encouragement has been an innovative method within our ministry to still impact those that are incarcerated. As a result of our new Pen Pal program, we have been able to send notes of encouragement to inmates across the country rather than the inmates at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility. Our impact has expanded nationally and we ask that you take part in our growth!

### Guidelines

- ▶ Write your own note of encouragement (see the examples for inspiration).
- ▶ Feel free to adapt and to write your own personal notes.
- ▶ Please do not put signature, location or any other type of personal information on the notes.
- ▶ Use your own natural voice to write things you would find encouraging or uplifting
- ▶ Simple is OK, your words and honest sentiments can express a lot.
- ▶ Draw a picture if you get tired of writing.
- ▶ Put yourself in the shoes of someone on death row who might be receiving this card.
- ▶ Say a prayer for whoever may be receiving the note as you are writing it.

**A Reminder:** Men who are incarcerated live in a world where most of their day to day lives are controlled. We don't want this note they receive to be another unwanted thing or an unwelcome intrusion. Do not make the card overly religious (prison is a diverse place with people from many backgrounds). Do not mention that the inmate has done something bad. Do not write cliché or identical sayings on the card. Remember that this note is going to a real person.

If you are interested in hosting a letter writing event please, email Christopher Espinoza, Program Director of Prison Ministries at [christopher@offendervictimministries.org](mailto:christopher@offendervictimministries.org)

### Examples of Valentine's Day Letters

- ▶ Hey! I am writing along with a lot of other folks to encourage you on this Valentine's day. You are worthy of respect, care, and love. We don't know each other but I wish you the best. I hope all is well with you and you are able to feel the care that I have put into writing this letter and sending it to you. Even though we will not be able to correspond regularly, I hope this one time letter from me reminds you that there are people that care. My strength comes from the Lord Jesus, he is my only hope as I face my struggles and personal issues. I hope that you can relate in this aspect as you face your struggles.
- ▶ Greetings! I know that it is colder out and winter isn't always the easiest time. I hope this small note expresses warmth and care. This Valentine's Day – we don't celebrate candy and roses – but we do remember the faith of St. Valentine who was imprisoned by the Roman Empire but who never gave up his love for others.
- ▶ Greetings! This note comes with my best wishes for you and to remind you that you are loved.
- ▶ Hello, Along with others at Offender/Victim Ministries I want to send you words of encouragement on this Valentine's Day. I hope this small note gives you strength, patience, new hope or courage. Sending love, a caring friend.
- ▶ Greetings to you! This note comes with my best wishes and hopes for you this Valentine's Day and in the days and weeks to come. I wish you the very best. You are loved.
- ▶ Happy Valentine's Day.  
I send you my love and peace to you today. If I could meet you I would give you a friendly handshake also. I hope that you have a good day and can find joy and happiness.