

Cardinal Sean's Blog on Fr Joe Baggetta

On Thursday, I visited the Department of Youth Services' Metro Youth Service Center in Dorchester. It was sad to see so many young people in a correctional institution. Most of the children there are between the ages of 12 and 20. Although I worked as a prison chaplain for a few years and have visited many prisons where so much of the population is of young people, this visit was particularly touching.

The chaplain, Father Joe Baggetta, has been there for over 20 years and has done a wonderful job. He has a fantastic presence and works so well with the other ministers and with the Knights of Columbus who have provided his ministry with a chapel, which is an air-conditioned trailer.



A tour of the chapel with Father Baggetta

I was also impressed by the staff at the facility. Many staff members have worked there a long time and do so with a sense of mission. I was touched by the fact that the kids gave a great round of applause to the janitor who is retiring. It shows that even the auxiliary staff there is trying to have a positive impact on the lives of these young people.



Metro Area Director John Hughes and Deputy Commissioner Ed Dolon and I outside the trailer donated by the Knights of Columbus