

Auburn P

Auburn Prison is 154 years old. Catholic men incarcerated there. A tall, ruggedly built priest, Father Gardner, he says, his job is "to replace grounded Catholic attitudes."

The prison is a maximum security. Maximum stay is one year. "And inmates arrive here, they've already been in other institutions along the trail," he says. The walls of Auburn Prison were built when the execution chamber was developed. Work on the prison began on Aug. 6, 1890.

A grim parish, but also a place where men want to make a new future here. He can continue his education, take courses up to a Regents diploma, write correspondence. He can quit smoking. And, most important, he can build his life on moral and religious principles. "I really want to," Father Gardner says.



"I tell the men, in this life, you don't have to succeed to please God, but you have to try to succeed. I tell myself that Christ wasn't successful in winning over all his contemporaries."



"It's like fishing for muskies. You don't get a strike very often, but when you do, it makes all the fishing worthwhile."

(Photos by Bob Kiger)



"The men have made most of our mistakes, etc.; and we feel they've..."