

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland Prison Ministry: Training Guidelines and Resources

To help form and support parishioners for prison/jail ministry please consider utilizing the following national and local resources. While each correctional facility is different and requires specific training and protocols, these resources help provide a foundation for those involved in the ministry. For additional information as well as to connect with other groups throughout the diocese and nationally, please contact Catholic Charities Parish Social Ministry: psm@ccmaine.org or 207-781-8550.

National Guidelines:

- Dismas Ministry: *Messengers of Hope: A Catholic Correctional Training Resource* This resource, used by several dioceses for training their volunteers, provides practical information and advice for those who are training others or for those who are on their own but need to prepare themselves for outreach to inmates. Materials can be ordered at: <https://dismasministry.org/product/messengers-of-hope/>

National Resources:

- Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice A statement of the Catholic Bishops of the United States: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/criminal-justice-restorative-justice/crime-and-criminal-justice.cfm>
- The Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition (CPMC): Works on recruiting, training, supporting and empowering those in the ministry. They also provide forums and opportunities for the sharing of resources and practices. More information, including previously recorded webinars, can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catholic-education/catholic-prison-ministries-coalition-cpmc.cfm> or by emailing catholicpmc@gmail.com.
- Dismas Ministry: Compilation of national resources can be found at <https://dismasministry.org/resource-links/>

Local Resources:

- Clergy: Helps with logistics of the ministry, providing the Sacraments, etc.
- Parish or Facility Prison Ministry Group: Provides support, coordinate visits, sharing of ideas and materials, etc.
- Correctional Facility: Provides protocol while at the facility.
- Maine Prison Re-Entry Network (MPRN): Collection of statewide groups and organizations. Contact Bruce Noddin for more information: brunoskis317@gmail.com
- The Order of Malta: Bibles and prayer books can be provided by contacting Earle Rugg at erugg@ruralhealthit.com

Ongoing Training and Formation Topics for Local Ministries:

- Mental Health: Consider contacting Mental Health First Aid:
<https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/>
- Substance Abuse: Consider contacting a local Recovery Coach program:
<https://www.maineallianceforaddictionrecovery.org/>
- Re-Entry Resources and Processes: Consider contacting Maine Prisoner Reentry Network
- Recruitment of Volunteers
- Simulation Experience with Scenarios
- Connecting Faith and Service through Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching: Consider contacting Parish Social Ministry
- Domestic Violence: Consider contacting a local Domestic Violence Project:
<https://www.mcedv.org/get-help/>
- Connecting with Other Faith Denominations Involved in the Ministry
- Impact on Family Members: Consider contacting Rose's Room through MPRN and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE): <http://maineaces.org/index.html>