



Partners in Pastoral Care

Continuing the Healing Ministry of Jesus
in the Name of the Church



Catholic Prison Ministries

COALITION

SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS



National Association of
Catholic Chaplains

CPMC Promotes and Develops Certification Opportunities

for those who want to train to candidates to minister to all those affected by incarceration.

A project of the National Association for Catholic Chaplains (NACC).

Together with NACC, we are developing three pathways for formation and credentialing for those providing pastoral care to those affected by incarceration:



- **Foundational** - for those who wish to become involved in supporting pastoral care to those affected by incarceration.
- **Intensive** – for paraprofessionals, those ready to commit further come to understand the wider ministry to those affected by incarceration and to strengthen gifts for service in specific settings, prison, re-entry, community, etc.
- **Leadership** - for those committed to being responsible for assuring that all elements of pastoral care are addressed in a particular setting.

Each pathway includes the following Certification Components

- The expectation of minister: Prison Ministry Pastoral Care Competencies
- Content/curriculum
- Required content/hours
- The process to assimilate, develop
- Process of evaluation/assessment

Throughout the formation in each pathway, candidates reflect upon and prepare to answer the following Key Questions:

1. Why am I doing this? Focus: Motivation for Pastoral Care Ministry
2. Where am I, and who is there? Focus: The Culture I am called to serve in.
3. How do I represent the pastoral care ministry of the Church? Focus: Pastoral identity
4. What am I doing there? Part I - Focus: Accompaniment, Listening Presence
5. What am I doing there? Part II - Focus: Religious Agent
6. How do I navigate the system? - Focus: The "do's, don'ts, and relationships

The Foundational Pathway Requirements (minimum of 30 formation hours)

Scope of Practice:

- Understands the basics of pastoral care ministry, especially
 - empathetic listening
 - pastoral care presence
 - how to assess and be exposed to the diversity of pastoral care settings

Preparation Focus:

- Grounded in all four dimensions of formation ministry enough to begin to discern the call to pastoral care

Academic preparation

- 16 hours of formation using CPMC Prison Ministry 101 with accompanying reflection booklets

Clinical preparation

- 8 hours of reflection with an assigned mentor/supervisor to review reflection questions from the webinars and process the experiences in jail/prisons/detention centers, reentry, families of prisoners, parish-based restorative justice work)

Ministry Experience

- At least 6 hours of mentoring in multiple settings aimed to help discern understanding and comfort level for the ministry.

Endorsements

- Pastor or his delegate (e.g. deacon or pastoral associate)
- Mentor
- Person from ministerial/correctional setting

Sample Foundational Module 1

from the **Diocesan Pilot Project for Foundational Formation for Prison Ministry**

Why am I doing this? Focus: Motivation for Pastoral Care Ministry

- What attracts you to and motivates you for this ministry?
- How are you of your own personal biases, hurts, and being wronged that can affect your ministry?
- How is your Christian faith motivating this ministry?

Topics Covered

- Our relationship with Christ.
- Discernment: why am I doing this?
- Personal Prayer
- Grounded in the Sacraments

Materials for review

- **Ministry to the Incarcerated in the Era of Pope Francis**
<https://www.catholicprisonministries.org/webinar/ministry-to-the-incarcerated-in-the-era-of-pope-francis>
- **Jail and Prison Ministry 101 – Session 1: Pray – Spiritual Formation**
<https://www.catholicprisonministries.org/resources#featured>
- **Reflection booklet:**

Primary Reflection Questions

What goes into your initial discernment for this ministry? Why are you doing this?
What is your key motivation for considering Pastoral Care Ministry to those affected by incarceration?

What scriptural passages do you think of when you consider being involved in pastoral care in jail and prison ministry?

Explain how important your own relationship with Jesus and the Church has to do with grounding you for this ministry?

Discuss with a mentor or sponsor: In your own story or journey, have you had any bias that you may need to address. For example, has anyone you know either been in jail or prison or a victim of crime? Are their hurts, sense of being wronged that you may have to acknowledge?

What did you learn about the importance of prayer and the sacraments?

What have you found most helpful in these first sessions?

What recommendations might you make to improve these sessions and the support materials?

Related Competencies¹ for this Session:

1.1 Appreciate and affirm the dignity of the human person and the positive values of diverse cultures, races, and socioeconomic groups within their respective self-understandings

1.1.1 Show awareness of one's own personal values, goals, prejudices and biases.

1.1.2 Demonstrate openness to differing views, perspectives, faith traditions and opinions

1.1.3 Understand and embrace the inviolable human dignity and hope

1.2 Identify personal gifts and limitations through self-reflection, collaboration with others, peer feedback, supervisory assessment processes, and/or spiritual companionship.

1.2.1 Articulate (demonstrate) a knowledge of self that is realistic, including one's gifts, limitations, and opportunities.

1.2.2 Demonstrate openness to feedback from others.

1.2.3 Demonstrate commitment to personal discernment

1.2.4 Demonstrate awareness of one's own personal response to change.

2.1 Give witness to an integrated spirituality formed by Scripture, theological reflection, sacramental celebration, communal worship, and active participation in parish life.

2.1.3 Articulate an understanding of Catholic pastoral care teaching related to incarcerated

Some Pilot Participant Comments:

— *“It just gave me the feeling I’m not alone, that there are resources to tap into that I didn’t know about. There are other people who have the same longing to be able to enter into it more deeply. So I can do this job with the Holy Spirit and with all of you. That all the mistakes that I make are things I can learn from, especially I have all these materials that were sent. I can keep going back to them and saying, oh yes, that’s a great idea.”*

— *“It was a really big gift because I feel that doing this training actually gave me a sense of community in the ministry and some background before I had to deal with the logistics of the prison system. It helped me get to the heart of what it’s about. “*

— *“The spiritual grounding and competencies, it led discussion and forced us to focus on God as the facilitator in our work in serving others and bringing us together as a community as we serve together the people we have a privilege to serve. Its been a community building experience, one which brought practicality to our services and spiritual grounding. I appreciate everyone.”*

¹ The Full list of [Criminal Justice/Corrections competencies approved by the USCCB Subcommittee on Certification for Ecclesial Ministry and Service](#) are now available in English and Spanish.

The Intensive Pathway Requirements (minimum of 80 formation hours)

Scope of Practice:

- Understands more deeply the meaning of the healing ministry and its practices in the Catholic Church, and the pastoral care needs of those affected by incarceration
- To understand more deeply those being served, and to be prepared to provide pastoral care in multiple settings

Preparation Focus:

- Furthers growth in spirituality to motivate/sustain
- Acquires more depth of knowledge and skills for those being served and the context of ministry (jail, prisons, returning citizens)

Academic preparation

- 20 hours of continuing education in pastoral theology, catechesis, evangelization (e.g.: catechesis, bible study, EOM, etc.)

Clinical preparation

- 1 1 Pastoral Care Education clinical/formation program (structured on a CPE unit) or other clinical/pastoral experience (at least 80 hours) with clinical setting experience in a criminal justice related setting(s) (jail/prisons/detention centers, reentry, families of prisoners, parish-based restorative justice work)

Ministry Experience

- 1 years ministerial experience, a portion in correctional setting
- At least 24 hours of mentoring in multiple settings aimed to help discern the best setting for the gifts brought to the ministry.

Endorsements

- Local ordinary / or his delegate such as a pastor
- Clinical Supervisor/Mentor
- Person from ministerial/correctional setting

The Methodological Approach: Pastoral Care Education for Prison Ministry

- CPE-like program (extended program, following the methodology, goals and objectives for a CPE accredited unit (10-15 participants, leader, critical reflection, clinical hrs.)
- Enhance the pastoral care skills of employees and volunteers who are already involved in ministry
- 10 months, with full participation in bi-weekly 4 hours sessions (8 hrs. monthly)
- Accepting applications for next cohort anticipated in fall 2022.

The Leadership/Specialization Pathway Requirements

Scope of Practice:

- Leads others in service as well as provides service.
- Comprehensive preparation
- Serves as a faith companion, a group leader or a coordinator of services
- Identifies specific spiritual care/sacramental needs
- Specializes in an area/population of correctional ministry

Preparation Focus:

- Applies contents learned
- Deepens spirituality in order to motivate/sustain
- Demonstrates SKA's to prepare and organize others

Academic preparation

- Bachelor Degree in theology, divinity, pastoral ministry, spirituality
- Or 40 hours of continuing education in theology with college degree
- Minimum 12 semester hours in criminal justice related counseling, psychology, or related field at bachelor or master's level

Clinical preparation

- 1 Pastoral Care Education clinical/formation program (based on CPE unit structure) in a criminal justice related setting(s) (hours in jail/prisons/detention centers, reentry, families of prisoners, parish-based restorative justice work)
- Ministry Experience
- 2 years ministerial experience, a portion in correctional setting

Endorsements

- Local ordinary
- Clinical Supervisor/Mentor
- Person from ministerial/correctional setting

What types of partnership for developing/ implementing these pathways in your diocese?

Ask the question, "what level of partnership do I need?" Do you need:

- 1) A general introduction to the program/resources and you can take it from there.
- 2) A more extensive introduction to all the components of the program with your facilitators becoming familiar with the components and then you can prepare your own facilitators
- 3) Initial preparation of diocesan facilitators who can then take over the program?
- 4) Preparation training for mentors?
- 5) A "turn key" program offered from without?

Diocesan Partnership

- 1) National networking and support for leaders
- 2) National resources
- 3) Model preparation programs for pathways
- 4) National Programs for Special Topics
- 5) National credentialing
- 6) National On-line Training program

How to become a partner?

- Join the NACC @ <https://www.nacc.org/membership/membership-categories/> as
 - A Diocesan Collaborator Member
 - A Professional Member
 - A Ministry Volunteer Member

How to stay updated on this work?

Participate in upcoming webinars/events
Join the Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition (CPMC) @
<https://www.catholicprisonministries.org/join-our-mission>

If interested in learning more about the steps and options for partnering in this opportunity, contact:

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Some Further Background:

Since 2018, the Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition (CPMC) was established to:

- Promote Catholic ministry to all those affected by incarceration.
- Recruit, train, support, and empower those called to this ministry.
- Strive to create a more just and merciful criminal justice system closely aligned with the ministry and teaching of the Church and the example of Pope Francis.
- Network and create opportunities to share resources and best practices to strengthen the Church's mission to advance restorative justice that upholds the dignity of every human person.

From the start, we founded a formation committee to create training materials, pathways to certification, and sharing of the best resources found.

In 2020, CPMC became a partner and, more recently, a project of the [National Association for Catholic Chaplains](#) involved in their [Partners in Pastoral Care project](#) to develop three pathways for formation. The Partners Project provides a model of a pastoral care formation program with pathways for formation with suggested content, methodologies, and resources for the program with links to examples. Competencies were developed by reviewing USCCB National Certification Standards based on the Four Standards from Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord. i.e., *Human, Spiritual, Intellectual, and Pastoral*.

The [Criminal Justice/Corrections competencies](#) are now available in English and Spanish.

The [USCCB Subcommittee on Certification of Ecclesial Ministry](#) and Service has commended this effort as "a valuable resource for formation" because of the comprehensive, holistic, and spiral approach to the formation that offers a variety of pathways for candidates to the experience of success.

