

Foundational Formation for Prison Ministry Module Four

Focus

- 1. What am I doing there? Focus: Pastoral Presence Part One: Visitation and Accompaniment**
 - Listening empathically to their needs: Facing losses, Death and Grief, Transitions
- 2. Topics Covered**
 - How is one representative of the Church's Social Teaching? This session grounds one's ministry in the Church's teaching on human dignity, social and restorative justice, evangelization, recognizing racism, empowering people, collaborative ministry

Assignments for this Module

View:

- **Jail and Prison Ministry 101 – Session 4: Listen - Pastoral Care - Formation II**
<https://www.catholicprisonministries.org/resources#featured>
Can also find @ <https://youtu.be/rvI5pqqLAcM>

Read:

- **Reflection booklet: [Prison Ministry 101, Session 4](#)**
- **Messengers of Hope: A Catholic Prison Ministry Training Resource, Dismas Ministry – 6-8, 10-14, 16**
<https://www.nacc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Module-4-Messengers-of-Hope-p.-6-8-10-14-16.pdf>

Write Answers to these Reflection Questions for Journal of Learning (to share during session)

1. Recall the lectio on the story of the raising of Lazarus. What is the relationship of shared sorrow and intercessory prayer shared by Father Dustin? How would you relate this understanding to the ministry of pastoral care?
2. In what ways does Father Dustin say that we can help recover the dignity of those we serve in prisons? (see p. 7)
3. True or False – Human persons are created to be islands unto themselves. Explain your answer. (See # 12, [Gaudium et Spes](#))
4. How is the reality of incarceration in conflict with the Church's teaching about the innermost nature of human beings?
5. True or False – Catholics believe that every person is much more than the worst decisions that they have made. Explain your answer.
6. True or False – The Teaching of the Creed that we recite at Mass becomes known in how we treat one another. Explain your answer.
7. True or False – There are more African American men in prison than the total number of prison populations in India, England, Argentina, Canada, Lebanon, Germany, Israel, and Finland combined.
8. Describe and share with your mentor or sponsor the primary way Father Dustin believes that we preach the Gospel in the correctional setting.
9. Discuss why is it important for those who do this ministry to have a spiritual director?
10. Explain what Father Dustin says about the importance of having a community of support to share what we see in our work with those affected by incarceration?

Criminal Justice Ministry Pastoral Care Competencies¹ Related to This Module

- 1.6 Manifest "psychological health, marked by integrity, appropriate interpersonal boundaries, and the ability to honor and safeguard the trust that people place in them as Church ministers" (CoWorkers, p. 36).**
- 1.6.1 Demonstrate careful attention to emotional, physical, and spiritual boundaries
- 1.6.2 Demonstrate the ability to attend to others' feelings, needs, and concerns
- 2.5 Honor the call to ministry rooted in one's baptism by developing ministerial goals that flow from one's spirituality and reflect an integration of Gospel values.
- 2.5.5 Pastoral care as a healing ministry in the name of the Church**
- 3.10 Social sciences and humanities. Know and integrate into ministerial practice a foundational understanding of the social sciences and humanities**
- 3.10.1 Knows the social sciences, and particularly the fundamental human dynamics in the most vulnerable of times that ground pastoral care activity, especially issues related to loss of all kinds, suffering, grief, aging, and death
- 3.10.2 To come to terms with the reality of death and the dying process.
- 3.10.3 To comprehend the dynamics of death and grief and appropriate responses.
- 3.11 Culture and language studies. Know and integrate into ministerial practice knowledge of intercultural communication and linguistic/cultural skills.**
- 3.11.1 Integrates cultural and language skills into ministry
- 3.11.2 Respects other cultural and religious traditions
- 4.1 Exercise sound practices of compassionate pastoral care.
- 4.1.1 Compare theories of human development, as focused by adult and family life-cycle theories of the social sciences and theories of faith development as sources for pastoral practices**
- 4.1.2 Develop a holistic approach to the human person using empathic skills, which include effective listening

Other Helpful Resources Mentioned for Enrichment:

Webinars mentioned:

- CPMC Webinar: Grief and Bereavement @ <https://youtu.be/HaqiWAMGKIU>
See also: [Transcript for Grief and Bereavement Webinar](#)

Websites and Resources

- Webinar: The Ministry of Accompaniment: What is needed? @ <https://www.catholicprisonministries.org/webinar/ministry-of-accompaniment-what-is-needed>
- Gaudium et Spes, Pastoral Constitution On The Church In The Modern World Promulgated By His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, on December 7, 1965, @ http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vatii_const_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html
- The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, by Michelle Alexander, The New Press, New York, 2010.
https://www.amazon.com/s?k=the+new+jim+crow+by+michelle+alexander&crd=9WK6DRMIGBU0&sprefix=The+New+j%2Caps%2C189&ref=nb_sb_ss_ts-doa-p_3_9

Recommended Resources on Catholic Social Teaching @ <https://www.catholicprisonministries.org/catholic-social-teaching>

- The Seven Themes of Catholic Social teaching* @ <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/seven-themes-of-catholic-social-teaching.cfm>
- Open Wide Our Hearts* – USCCB 2018 Pastoral Letter Against Racism @ <http://www.usccb.org/issuesand-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/open-wide-our-hearts.pdf>

¹For full list of Criminal Justice Ministry Pastoral Care Competencies click [here for English](#) and [here for Spanish](#).