

Foundational Formation for Prison Ministry Module Five

Focus

- 1. What am I doing there? Focus: Pastoral Presence Part Two: In the Name of the Church**
 - Religious Agent: Worship and Sacraments, Bible Studies, sharing sacramentals (rosary, etc.), sharing their faith/sharing our faith, and evangelizing.
- 2. Topics Covered**
 - What works – worship and sacraments in jail and prison/ Bible Studies/ Sacramentals/ Praying with Prisoners – 1:1, cell fronts, etc.
 - Power Dynamics
 - Situational Awareness
 - Substance Abuse

Assignments for this Module

View:

- **Jail and Prison Ministry 101 – Session 5: Pastoral Care - Formation I**
<https://www.catholicprisonministries.org/resources#featured>
Can also find @ https://youtu.be/lh_3IB4G8Kc

Read:

- **Reflection booklet: [Prison Ministry 101 Session 5 Booklet V.2](#)**
- **Messengers of Hope: A Catholic Prison Ministry Training Resource, Dismas Ministry** – 5-8, 17-18, 28-31
<https://www.nacc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Module-5-Messengers-of-Hope-pp.-5-8-pp.-17-18-pp-28-31.pdf>

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

1. How can the goal of the Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition help you? (See www.catholicprisonministries.org)
2. True or False: It's important to remember that people are not sent to prison for punishment; rather, they are sent to prison as punishment.
3. True or False: If we offer sympathy for the prisoners without challenging them to be accountable for their actions, we enable them. We are not helping them.
4. Do you understand the difference between guilt and shame? Discuss this with your mentor or sponsor?
5. True or False: The rules in prisons/jails have nothing to do with safety or security.
6. Discuss with your mentor, sponsor, or supervisor: what you understood about what Father George said about boundaries and sharing with prisoners.
7. True or False: We need to remember that the criminal justice system is completely contaminated by racism, and so are we. Explain your answer.
8. Explain why you are not allowed to bring anything in, and you are not allowed to bring anything out.
9. True or False: You have to remember your professional boundaries because there is a power differential. Explain.
10. True or False: We must approach the correction officers and the staff out of a place of compassion for them. They are not the enemy. They are not the bad guys. Explain your answer.
11. Can you name at least one helpful resource shared by Father George for teaching or defending the faith?
12. True or False: You're not bringing God into prison. God is already there. God's already in these men and women. Explain your answer.

Criminal Justice Ministry Pastoral Care Competencies¹ Related to This Module

2.2 Live a life of private and communal prayer that is both formed by and reflective of the breadth and depth of the Catholic spiritual tradition.

- 2.2.1 Respond to issues in a manner that manifests Catholic spirituality
- 2.2.2 Content around personal, ecclesial, and social spirituality.

2.3 Bear witness to the profound significance of Eucharist in one's own life, in the life of one's parish, and in the life of the whole Catholic community.

- 2.3.1 Sensitive to the immediate needs of those to whom I am ministering as I share the Eucharist with them, acknowledging that I am sharing the living body of Christ with the Body of Christ.
- 2.3.2 Able to articulate the importance of sacramental and Eucharistic life for the setting of the incarcerated.

2.4 Demonstrate sensitivity to the spirituality of the sacred arts, i.e., art, music, and architecture, and the value of their expression in liturgical and communal prayer.

- 2.4.1 Knowing the importance of the environment and cultural setting for liturgical and communal prayer in pastoral care settings.
- 2.4.2 Having a familiarity with the many ways people pray and allowing them to pray in the manner that is most meaningful for them.
- 2.4.3 Viewing place of incarceration as sacred space, and conduct services accordingly

2.8 Display openness to ecumenical prayer, work, and practices that promote Christian unity and acknowledge

the gifts afforded the human community from the various world religions.

- 2.8.1 Have a working knowledge of the forms of prayer and traditions of other religions as those prayers and traditions relate to all forms of pastoral care ministry (birth, illness, end of life).
- 2.8.2 In an incarceration environment, one must know the limits and possibilities for celebrating Eucharist

Other Helpful Resources Mentioned for Enrichment:

Webinars mentioned:

- CPMC Webinar: **Dismas Ministry and Sharing Resources:** CPMC Webinar @ https://youtu.be/K_sYOkJ7Bfg

Websites and Resources

- ***Prison Ministry: Understanding Prison Culture Inside and Out*** – May 15, 2002, Lenny Spitale.
https://www.amazon.com/Prison-Ministry-Understanding-Culture-Inside/dp/0805424830/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&qid=1634245474&refinements=p_27%3ALennie+Spitale&s=books&sr=1-3
- ***A Reason for Our Hope***, Dismas Ministry @ <https://dismasministry.org/product/a-reason-for-hope/>
- Effective Apologetics Resources @ <https://staycatholic.com/>
- Resources for Answers about Catholicism @ Catholic Answers - <https://www.catholic.com/>
- **Warning:** Look out for publications from here: <https://www.chick.com/>

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