



# MODULE 2

## REPRESENTING THE CHURCH IN MINISTRY

### TOPICS COVERED

- The Church as the Body of Christ
- The Relational Nature of Catholic Prison Ministry
- Scripture and Tradition
- Eucharist and Reconciliation

### PREPARATION FOR COHORT MEETING



Watch Module 2 Video



Read *Messengers of Hope* - A Catholic Correctional Training Resource from Dismas Ministry (pgs 5-6)



Write answers to the reflection questions in a journal

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why is community important in the life of a Christian?
2. What does it mean to say that prison ministry is a relationally oriented ministry?
3. Share about a person who has accompanied you on your faith journey.
4. How does Pope Francis' image of the Church as a field hospital relate to your ministry?
5. Fr. Dustin reminds us it is important not to browbeat people with a Bible, but to instead open them up to the realities and dimensions of an encounter with Jesus. How do you imagine Scripture and Tradition helping you as a minister?
6. Fr. George says that the sacraments are signs of God's action in our lives. Share about a time when you felt God's grace mediated through a Sacrament.
7. Why are Eucharist and Reconciliation important in a prison, jail, or detention center?
8. What does Fr. George say about Eucharist and Reconciliation? Is there a lesson there for you?
9. Be prepared to discuss your reaction to the statement: "We are not fundamentally going into prison to fix people."

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** Click on the title to access linked resources.

**Books**

- *The City of God* by Saint Augustine
- *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander

**Church Resources**

- Second Vatican Council. Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*. Nov 21, 1964. Holy See.
- Pope Francis. *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel). Nov 13, 2013.

**CPMC Resources**

- *Best Catechetical Materials for Prison and Detention Ministry*. Presented by Tyler Curtis, Larry Lutz & Lulu Santana. 16 Sept 2020, CPMC Webinar
- *Quality Catholic Materials on Paper and Tablets*. Panel Presentation. 14 Jun 2023, CPMC Webinar.

**Organizations**

- Catholic Distance University
- Dismas Ministry
- Shalom Media / Shalom World
- Word Among Us

**Scripture**

Acts of the Apostles, Book of Revelation, Psalms, and Romans 1:20



Sister Mary, Inspire in us the strength to be towers of faith, holding the light of the Gospel for all to see. You, the first to witness Christ's resurrection and our shared redemption, fortify our belief in the face of others' disbelief. On our behalf, Sister of Constancy, pray that we might have the perseverance to be witness to the Creator's mercy, love, and forgiveness. Amen.

\*The icon and prayer were created in collaboration with the women on Texas' death row and in solidarity with all incarcerated women.

## MODULE 2 COMPETENCIES

Listed below are the National Catholic Prison Ministries Pastoral Care Competencies for 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 the as Church ministers” (CoWorkers, p. 36).

1.6.4 Understand the unique relationship-building in the prison setting

2.9 Model the spirit of Jesus in one’s life and identify with and promote the universal Church and its global mission so that all prayer and ministerial activity flow from that mission.

2.9.1 Having self-awareness of the ministerial situations to which I am called and knowing those in which I am challenged.

3.11 Culture and language studies. Know and integrate into ministerial practice knowledge of intercultural communication and linguistic/cultural skills.

3.11.1 Integrate cultural and language skills into ministry

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

\* For the full list of National Catholic Prison Ministries Pastoral Care Competencies, click [here for English](#) and [here for Spanish](#).