

Mission Statement

The Prison Ministry Network of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh responds to the gospel call to serve "the least among us" by providing support, sharing of resources, and training opportunities to enrich to all who minister to the incarcerated.

We facilitate the mission of sharing Christ's caring and loving presence with the imprisoned and their families, act as advocates for their basic rights and needs, and strive to encourage others in our faith communities to join in these efforts.

Goals

◇ Advocate for a territorial assignment of parishes for sacramental ministry to each North Carolina correctional facility located in the Diocese, following the example of the assignment of parishes for health care facilities. Make this listing available to all **Network** members, parishes, and correctional institutions.

◇ Provide training and support for all prison ministry volunteers.

◇ Unify the combined efforts of prison ministry in the Diocese so as to reach the greatest number of prisoners.

◇ Provide a forum for awareness, education, and advocacy for issues related to prison

ministry.

The Prison Ministry Network

The Diocese of Raleigh Prison Ministry Network arose from an informal meeting of lay ministers who discovered their mutual service in prison ministry. Their request for training and support resulted in the first diocesan prison ministry workshop (in January 1995) and in the creation of the diocesan **Network**.

The **Network** has grown to over 60 people who come together at least three times per year for prayer, training, sharing resources, and supporting one another.

The **Network** also provides help to parishes with recruitment, direction, and training for those called to serve in prison ministry.

The Network Welcomes:

All persons currently involved in prison ministry.

All persons seeking information about how to get involved in prison ministry.

All persons seeking more information about the areas of service in this ministry.

If you are interested in learning more about the **Network**, please contact any of those listed on the back of this brochure.

Prison Ministry Opportunities

Visit persons in North Carolina correctional facilities or local jails.

Correspond with inmates in correctional facilities.

Participate in a prison Bible study or faith sharing group.

Volunteer for in-prison religious, social, or educational programs.

Arrange for Christmas gifts for the children of inmates.

Provide support to selected individuals in post-release aftercare programs of personal character development, employment, housing and medical care.

Stand in solidarity with others at vigil services prior to executions.

Promote awareness and work for justice regarding issues surrounding capital punishment, sentence structure, and rehabilitation services .



Steps for Getting Involved

1. Begin with prayerful discernment to determine if prison ministry is your call.
2. Decide how much time you have to devote per month.
3. Explore what prison ministries are available in your area.
4. Select one or two prison ministries you think you'd like to pursue.
5. Contact your parish or the diocesan **Network** for names of persons to talk with.
6. Expect some setbacks and disappointments. They will happen.
7. Pray for God's continued guidance in your new commitment.
8. Tell others of your experience. They, too, may have a call to prison ministry.

"I was in prison and you visited me. Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me".

(Matthew 25:36,40)

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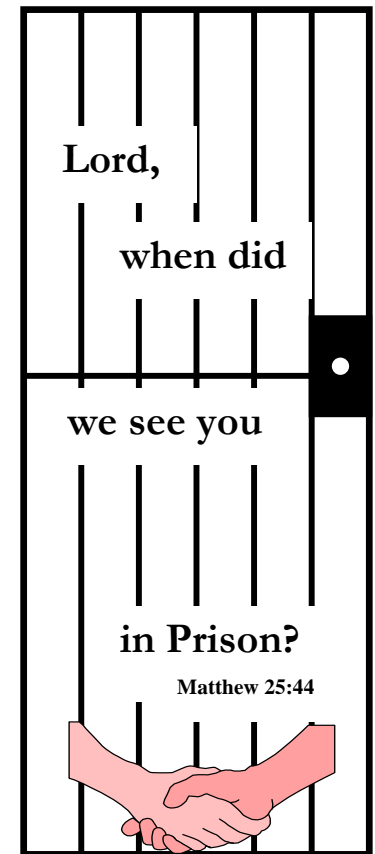
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