



Diocese of Gallup Prison Ministry Guidelines

Diocesan Norms for Prison Ministry

In Prisons

Weekly Mass and confessions; if not possible, weekly communion Service [priests/deacons]

Weekly Outreach (personal contact with a representative of the Catholic Church) [laity/religious]

Weekly Adult Religious Education (sacramental preparation and catechism and Bible study) [laity/religious]

Weekly Spiritual Counseling [deacons/laity/religious]

In Jails

Weekly Pastoral Visits [deacons/laity/religious]

Sacraments upon request [priests]

Development of a Lay Ministry

Identify lay deanery representatives to receive training, popularize the ministry and recruit laity, and offer on-going training within the deanery.

Invite Las Cruces Prison Ministry to conduct initial one-day training in Gallup for deanery representatives and anyone interested

Receive guidance from the collaborate with local jails and prisons

Money to carry on ministry - for mileage and supplies (\$20,000 grant)

Required clearance to minister in jails and prisons: Fingerprints, TB test, criminal background check, picture ID issued by prison

One day training by prison staff; one day training by Catholic Church - follow prison rules, must pass through metal detector, call guards "officers," no fraternization with inmates, be aware of manipulation by inmates

Dress code for ministers - black suit and collar for priests and deacons, Sisters wear habit, Sisters in lay attire and laity wear modest white blouses/shirts and black skirts (women) pants (men), common symbol

Additional Initiatives in Prison Ministry

Create a province-wide system of prison ministry

Advocating for jobs for newly released

Legal assistance to the undocumented

Work with parole system

Grassroots advocacy - reform prison system

Work with Native American ex-offenders

Maintain current list of all Catholic inmates; data-base on each Catholic inmate; when released, call parish at destination

Assist inmates upon release; \$50.00, give ride to interstate highway, buy ticket to destination, buy clothing

Encourage families of prisoners to inform local parish of family member in prison/jail

Care ministry - provide underwear, socks, toilet articles