



## **PRISON MINISTRY FAQ'S**

### **THE MISSION**

Our Mission is to serve our incarcerated brothers and sisters at the 20 prison facilities located in our diocese. This is accomplished by performing the Corporal Work of Mercy “to visit the imprisoned”. Our volunteer visits enable our brothers and sisters ‘behind the walls’ to continue to practice their Catholic faith and grow closer to Jesus Christ during their time of incarceration.

### **HOW MANY PRISONS IN THE DIOCESE?**

There are 20 separate prison facilities in our diocese; 14 Colorado Department of Correction (DOC) facilities, 2 CoreCivic (privately owned for-profit) facilities, and the Federal Complex of 4 facilities in Florence).

### **WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?**

The majority are clustered in Pueblo and Fremont Counties. Canon City has 8, Florence has 4 and Pueblo has 3 facilities. The remaining 5 are in Crowley, Delta, Las Animas, Olney Springs, and Trinidad.

### **WHAT DOES OUR PRISON MINISTRY ENTAIL?**

The diocese promotes several basic services for each of the facilities. We attempt to provide confessions and Mass at least monthly at each facility that allows the gathering of inmates. Not all facility custody levels allow for group gatherings. In those facilities where gatherings of inmates are not allowed, a priest or volunteer visits an inmate privately.

When there is no Mass scheduled, volunteers conduct word/communion services with those who gather. Building on this threshold volunteers conduct Bible studies and catechesis, provide inspirational movies and other activities such as “SycamOre”.

## **HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?**

This is an important ministry and there are several ways to serve. You can assist with a word/communion service, lead, or participate in faith sharing, a Bible study, or viewing a movie. You can also serve as a mentor for an inmate preparing for reintegration into the community. There are weekday, weeknight, and weekend times available.

## **HOW DO I GET STARTED?**

Facility tours and training classes are provided by the Colorado Department of Corrections. A background check is required. Please contact Deacon Dan Leetch at [dleetch@dioceseofpueblo.org](mailto:dleetch@dioceseofpueblo.org) or 719-544-9861 x1117 for further information and to see how God may be calling you!