



How to Enter Prison Ministry

1. The potential volunteer will contact the Archdiocesan Coordinator of Jail and Prison Ministry for an interview and be prepared to give the following information:
 - The reason they feel called to jail and prison ministry,
 - The facility they wish to enter if known,
 - The nature of the ministry in which they would like to engage,
 - The time commitment they are prepared to devote on a regular basis,
 - The term of their volunteer commitment if any, and
 - Any past ministry experiences in which they have engaged.
2. After the interview process has been completed, an evaluation of the potential volunteer is made by the Coordinator of Jail and Prison Ministry. Based on the evaluation a search for a ministry opportunity may be made.
3. When a ministry opportunity is matched with a volunteer, the details of the opportunity will be presented to the volunteer for their consideration.
4. When a ministry opportunity is accepted by a volunteer, they will then need to complete the requirements for the corrections facility being served. Facilities vary in their requirements but they may include:
 - Completing a facility application to make religious-oriented visits,
 - A criminal background check, (A past criminal conviction does not automatically disqualify a potential volunteer however it may extend the process)
 - A written statement why you want to volunteer,
 - A written statement by your pastor attesting that you are a member of the Church and in good standing,
 - Three character references.
5. The volunteer will then complete any required facility orientation prior to scheduling visits.
6. Prior to entering the facility to conduct ministry, the volunteer will again meet with the Coordinator of Jail and Prison Ministry to review the *Jail and Prison Ministry Volunteer Handbook* and receive any other instructions particular to the facility to be served.