

The Catholic Conference of Illinois coordinates the Illinois Catholic Prison and Jail Ministry Network, which is made up of clergy and laity from each diocese who minister to prisoners and inmates of state, federal and local institutions. The Network is organized as a practical response to Church teachings and the call of our bishops.

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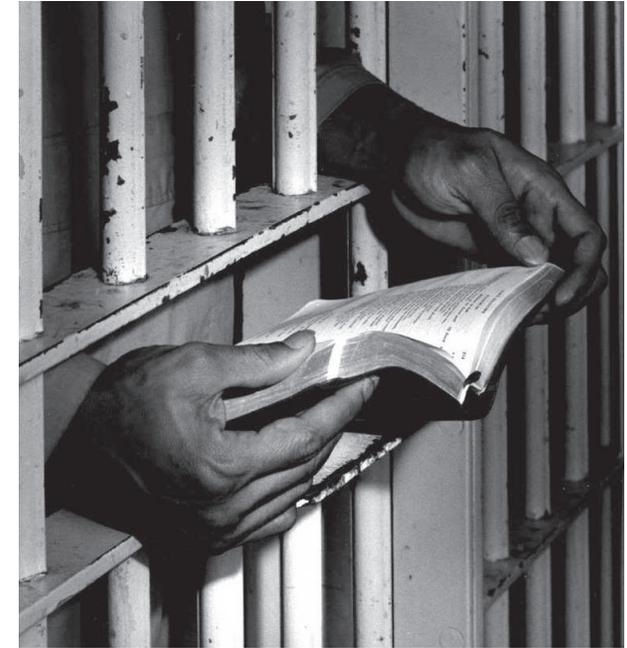
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*"...there are many ways to convey the Gospel message. I am personally filled with awe and wonder every time a prisoner shares ... a story with me. Imagine that God can use even me in such great work!"*

Jana Minor,  
Joliet Diocese Representative, CCI Network



For information about classes and workshops, contact:

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[www.ilcatholic.org/prison-and-jail-ministry](http://www.ilcatholic.org/prison-and-jail-ministry)  
[www.lewisu.edu/academics/theology](http://www.lewisu.edu/academics/theology)

## Catholic Leadership in Prison Ministry: Curriculum and Formation for Serving Incarcerated Persons

*I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.  
(Isaiah 42:7)*



## Overview

The Prison Ministry Leadership (PML) Curriculum is a series of courses created to support the six Roman Catholic dioceses of Illinois who seek to provide greater numbers of qualified individuals for ministerial leadership in prison and jail settings. The four courses and four workshops have been chosen very intentionally with the following outcomes in mind:

- A. Provide qualified leadership in jail and prison settings throughout the state of Illinois in each of the six dioceses
- B. Award sixteen (16) credits toward an undergraduate theology degree at Lewis University
- C. Deliver important requirements toward certification for prison chaplaincy in affiliation with the American Catholic Correctional Chaplains Association (ACCCA), an accredited organization of the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops

## Training of Leaders for Ministry in Jails and Prisons: 15 Month Timeline

- **Workshops** last 2 days each. They will be held in August, October, March and August. Two will be held at Lewis University and two will be delivered at a location further south in the state, conveniently located for most cohort members. The concluding commissioning will be in October of the 2nd year.
- **Modules** are 8-weeks: August-October; January-March; April-June; August-October. These will be held online.
- The curricular training program will be about 15 months long. While taking courses and attending workshops, PML participants will also be participating in formation activities in their home dioceses and actively serving as volunteer jail or prison ministers.

## Costs

Lewis University is discounting tuition significantly for ministers serving in the dioceses of Illinois. With diocesan, parish and grant support, the out-of-pocket expenses for participants should be minimal. Contact your local diocesan representative for further details.

*"Rehabilitation and restoration must include the spiritual dimension of healing and hope."*

*USCCB, Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice (2000)*

*Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment, and of the ill-treated as of yourselves, for you also are in the body.*  
*(Hebrews 13:3)*

August	<b>WORKSHOP 1</b> Introduction: Faith Behind Bars	<b>MODULE 1</b> Introduction to Christian Theology
September		
October	<b>WORKSHOP 2</b> Bible for Prisoners & Ministers	
November		
December		
January		<b>MODULE 2</b> Christian Actions & Values
February		
March	<b>WORKSHOP 3</b> Ecumenism & Interreligious Cooperation in Jail/Prison Setting	
April		<b>MODULE 3</b> Sacraments & Prayer Leadership
May		
June		
July		
August	<b>WORKSHOP 4</b> Pastoral Ministry: Practical Applications	<b>MODULE 4</b> Theology of Pastoral Ministry
September		
October		