



Catholic Prison Ministries
— COALITION —

JUBILEE OF PRISONERS RESOURCE GUIDE



2025

WELCOME

August 2025

Dear Fellow Pilgrims of Hope,

The Jubilee of Prisoners, first proclaimed by Pope Francis in December 2024, invites each one of us to recognize the dignity of every person who is affected by incarceration and to bear witness to God's mercy in a profound way. In response to the Jubilee invitation, CPMC is excited to share resources we have developed to support dioceses, parishes, and individuals as they celebrate this special event in the Church in honor of our brothers and sisters in prison.

Within this guide, you will find materials to help you engage your community in meaningful ways leading up to and during the Jubilee in December. We also highlight additional resources from our partners to ensure that you are equipped with a wide range of materials for prayer, reflection, and action.

Following tradition marking the beginning of the jubilee Year, the Pope opened the Holy Doors of St. Peter's Basilica and of the other three Major Basilicas in Rome. Going beyond tradition, he also opened a fifth sacred door in a Roman prison. His action was a symbolic sign "inviting all prisoners to look to the future with hope and a renewed sense of confidence" (*Spes Non Confundit*, Hope Does Not Disappoint, 11). It also was a symbolic sign inviting us to visit those who are incarcerated, encounter Christ in one another, and open our hearts to the liberating power of God's infinite love and mercy.

Opening the doors to prison ministry is what the Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition is all about! We provide formation, training, and education for ministry, share best practice, support advocacy for a more just and merciful legal system, and foster community through prayer and fellowship.

All those who walk through prison doors are on a journey of conversion and a path to encounter Christ. With this guide, we invite you to walk through the doors of the Jubilee of Prisoners and to celebrate it in your communities and in your hearts. Thank you for journeying with us.

In thanks and solidarity



Robert L. Cunningham
Executive Director, Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition

STENOZO

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INTRODUCTION



The 2025 Jubilee Year, proclaimed by Pope Francis as a “Jubilee of Hope” through his papal bull *Spes non confundit* (Hope Does Not Disappoint), represents one of the most significant spiritual celebrations in the Catholic Church. The Jubilee officially began with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica on Christmas Eve 2024 and will continue until January 6, 2026.

What makes this Jubilee particularly extraordinary is the unprecedented opening of a Holy Door at Rome’s Rebibbia Prison on December 26, 2024—the first time in the history of Jubilee years that a Holy Door has been opened within a prison. This revolutionary act signals the Church’s radical commitment to including those on the margins of society in its most sacred celebrations.

Pope Francis designated December 14, 2025, as a special “Jubilee for Prisoners,” culminating the year with a specific focus on the millions worldwide who are incarcerated, detained, or awaiting execution.

This resource guide provides essential information for Catholic leaders and prison ministries to understand, celebrate, and implement the profound opportunities the Jubilee Year offers for ministry with incarcerated persons and their families.

THE DECEMBER 2025 JUBILEE OF PRISONERS



What is a Jubilee Year?

A Jubilee Year, also known as a Holy Year, is a special period of grace and spiritual renewal in the Catholic Church that occurs at regular intervals and offers the faithful extraordinary opportunities for forgiveness, pilgrimage, and spiritual growth. The tradition has its roots in the Old Testament concept of the Jubilee described in Leviticus 25, where every fiftieth year was designated as a time of liberation, debt forgiveness, and restoration. Pope Boniface VIII established the first Christian Jubilee in 1300, initially intended to occur every century, though the interval was later shortened to every twenty-five years to ensure each generation could experience this grace. Throughout history, the Church has also proclaimed Extraordinary Jubilee Years to mark significant events or address particular spiritual needs, such as the Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis in 2015–2016.

During a Jubilee Year, Catholics worldwide are invited to undertake pilgrimages to designated holy sites, particularly the four major basilicas in Rome, where special “Holy Doors” are ceremonially opened. The faithful can obtain a plenary indulgence—complete remission of temporal punishment for sins—through prescribed acts of prayer, pilgrimage, charity, and sacramental confession and communion. Beyond individual spiritual benefits, Jubilee Years emphasize themes of mercy, reconciliation, social justice, and care for the marginalized, calling Catholics to renew their commitment to both personal holiness

and service to others. These sacred years serve as powerful reminders of God's infinite mercy and the Church's mission of healing and hope, providing structured opportunities for communities to come together in prayer, reflection, and charitable action while strengthening their faith and dedication to Gospel values.

Date and Significance of the Jubilee of Prisoners

The last major event of the Holy Year will be the "Jubilee of Prisoners" scheduled to take place on **December 14, 2025**. This date will serve as the culmination of the year-long focus on prison ministry and incarcerated persons. This event will likely include prisoners from various countries who have been granted temporary release to participate, along with prison ministry volunteers, chaplains, and advocates from around the world.

Scale and Scope

For this Jubilee honoring people who are imprisoned or affected by the justice system, we call to mind the nearly two million people in the United States who are incarcerated, detained, or awaiting execution.

This two million number represents not only those currently imprisoned but also:

- Former prisoners reentering society
- Families of incarcerated persons
- Victims of crime and their families
- Prison staff and volunteers
- Legal professionals working in criminal justice

Goals for the Jubilee of Prisoners

The December 2025 Jubilee of Prisoners aims to:

- **Celebrate Human Dignity:** Affirm the inherent worth of every person, regardless of their circumstances
- **Promote Healing:** Provide opportunities for reconciliation between offenders, victims, and communities
- **Advocate for Justice:** Call attention to systemic issues in criminal justice and prison conditions
- **Support Reintegration:** Emphasize the importance of helping former prisoners rebuild their lives
- **Strengthen Ministry:** Encourage and expand prison ministry programs throughout the Church

Pope Francis called on governments worldwide to undertake initiatives to restore dignity to prisoners that "go hand in hand with a concrete commitment to respect for the law."

The Historic Opening at Rebibbia Prison

On December 26, 2024, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door at Rome's Rebibbia Prison Complex on the feast of St. Stephen, marking a historic moment—the first opening of a jubilee Holy Door within a prison.

The pope's visit began with a solemn ritual as he stood from his wheelchair to knock six times on the bronze Holy Door of the prison chapel, the "Church of the Our Father." The church was filled with about 100 inmates as well as police officers, chaplains, and volunteers.

During the pope's homily, Francis spoke directly to the prisoners, emphasizing how one of the graces of the jubilee is "to open hearts to hope." "Do not lose hope. Hold on to the anchor of hope," Pope Francis underlined.



Pope Francis opening the Holy Door at Rebibbia Prison in Rome

Symbolic Meaning

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, emphasized that Rebibbia should be seen as "a symbol of all the prisons in the world." The pope called the prison "a cathedral of pain and hope", demonstrating how places of confinement can become spaces of transformation and grace.

THE CHURCH'S INCLUSION OF PRISONERS: A REVOLUTIONARY ACT OF HOPE



Breaking Down Barriers

The decision to open a Holy Door in a prison represents a fundamental shift in how the Church approaches those on the margins of society. Traditionally, Jubilee pilgrimages required travel to Rome and access to the major basilicas. By bringing a Holy Door to prisoners, the Church acknowledges that geographic and social barriers do not prevent anyone from experiencing God's mercy.

Dignity and Human Worth

Paolo Impagliazzo, secretary-general of the Catholic Community of Sant'Egidio, who has served as a volunteer in prison ministry at Rebibbia for 20 years, emphasized that this moment reminds us that prisoners are not "confined to their mistakes." "They are a part of a journey, of a Christian journey together with the other Christian people all over the world." This perspective reflects the Catholic understanding that every person, regardless of their past actions, retains their fundamental dignity as a child of God.

Model for the Universal Church

The extraordinary gesture was something Pope Francis was very keen to make, and underlines the importance and space given to caring for prisoners and their social reintegration in the Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee.

The opening of the Holy Door at Rebibbia serves as a model for the universal Church, encouraging dioceses and parishes worldwide to prioritize prison ministry and the pastoral care of incarcerated persons.

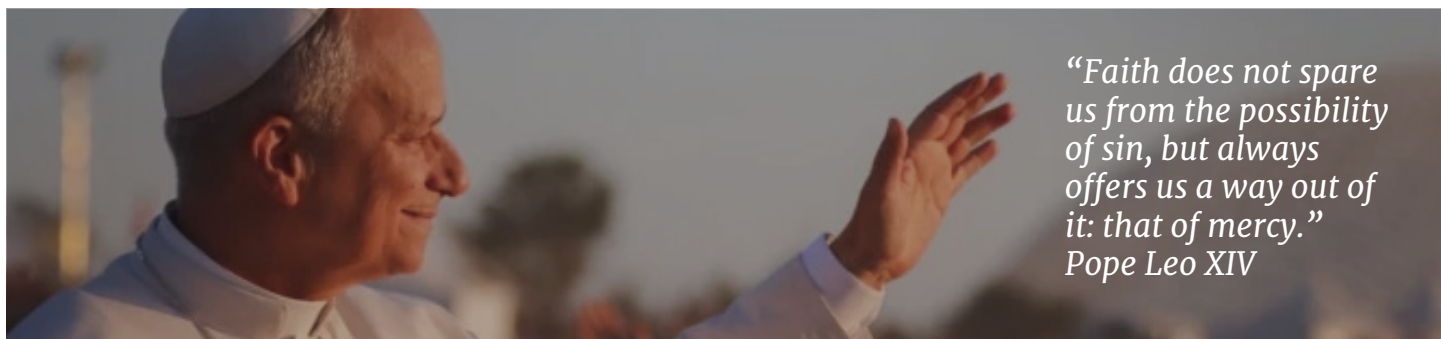
Practical Implications

The Church's inclusion of prisoners in the Jubilee celebration has several practical implications:

- **Liturgical Equality:** Prisoners have access to the same spiritual graces and indulgences as any other Catholic during the Jubilee Year.
- **Pastoral Priority:** Prison ministry is elevated from a specialized apostolate to a central concern of the Church's mission.
- **Social Integration:** The focus on reintegration programs demonstrates the Church's commitment to helping former prisoners rebuild their lives.
- **Advocacy:** The Church's public attention to prison conditions encourages reform and improved treatment of incarcerated persons.

Global Response

The impact of the Jubilee's focus on prisoners has already been seen globally. Taking up the spirit of the recently inaugurated Holy Year 2025, the Cuban government announced the release of 553 people currently serving prison sentences, inspired by Pope Francis's emphasis on mercy for prisoners during the Jubilee Year. This demonstrates how the Church's prophetic witness can influence government policies and create real hope for imprisoned persons worldwide.



A CALL TO ACTION



The 2025 Jubilee of Hope provides an unprecedented opportunity for the Catholic Church to demonstrate its commitment to the Gospel mandate to visit the imprisoned. This is not merely a year-long initiative but a transformative moment that should reshape the Church's priorities for years to come.

The Challenge Before Us

In solidarity, born from our shared dignity as children of God and members of the Body of Christ, we are called to participate in a ministry of restorative practices which seek to make whole all people impacted by crime and the carceral system.

This call challenges every level of the Church:

Bishops and Dioceses must prioritize prison ministry as an essential pastoral concern, allocating resources and personnel to serve this often-forgotten population.

Parishes must overcome fear and prejudice to welcome former prisoners back into community life and support the families of those currently incarcerated.

Individual Catholics must examine their own attitudes toward crime and punishment, moving from a desire for vengeance to a commitment to restoration and healing.

A FINAL WORD

As we implement the vision of the 2025 Jubilee of Hope, we must remember that we do not work alone. Christ himself was counted among criminals, crucified between two thieves. The risen Lord bears the wounds of his passion as signs of victory over sin and death.

In serving those who are imprisoned, we serve Christ himself. In working for justice and mercy, we participate in God's own work of redemption. In offering hope to the hopeless, we become instruments of the very hope that does not disappoint.

The prisoners at Rebibbia heard Pope Francis say: "Do not lose hope. Hold on to the anchor of hope." The same message echoes to every person involved in prison ministry: our hope is not in human institutions or programs, however necessary they may be. Our hope is in the God who sets captives free, who makes all things new, and who calls us to be ministers of reconciliation.

This Jubilee Year is our opportunity to answer that call with renewed commitment and prophetic courage. The men and women behind bars are waiting. Their families are waiting. The victims of crime are waiting. The community is waiting.

The question is not whether we are qualified for this ministry—none of us are. The question is whether we are willing to respond to the Gospel imperative: "I was in prison, and you visited me."

May this Jubilee of Hope be the beginning of a new chapter in the Church's commitment to all who are imprisoned, remembering that in God's kingdom, the last shall be first, the forgotten shall be remembered, and the condemned shall find redemption.

ABOUT CPMC

The Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition (CPMC) is responding to the call to elevate prison ministry to a central concern of the Church's mission. Serving as a national network supporting Catholic prison ministry throughout the United States, CPMC provides formation, training, resources, advocacy, and community for the many Catholics engaged in ministry with incarcerated persons and their families, as well as those discerning a call to the ministry. Programs include foundational formation and training (adult ministry in English and Spanish and juvenile ministry), specialized training (human trafficking, trauma, and immigrant detention), education (webinars, town halls, and podcasts), retreats, special events, and peer support.

For more information about CPMC's resources and programs, visit:
www.catholicprisonministries.org.

Appendix A

HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT INFOGRAPHICS

***Important data about
incarceration to share in parish
bulletins or as flyers***



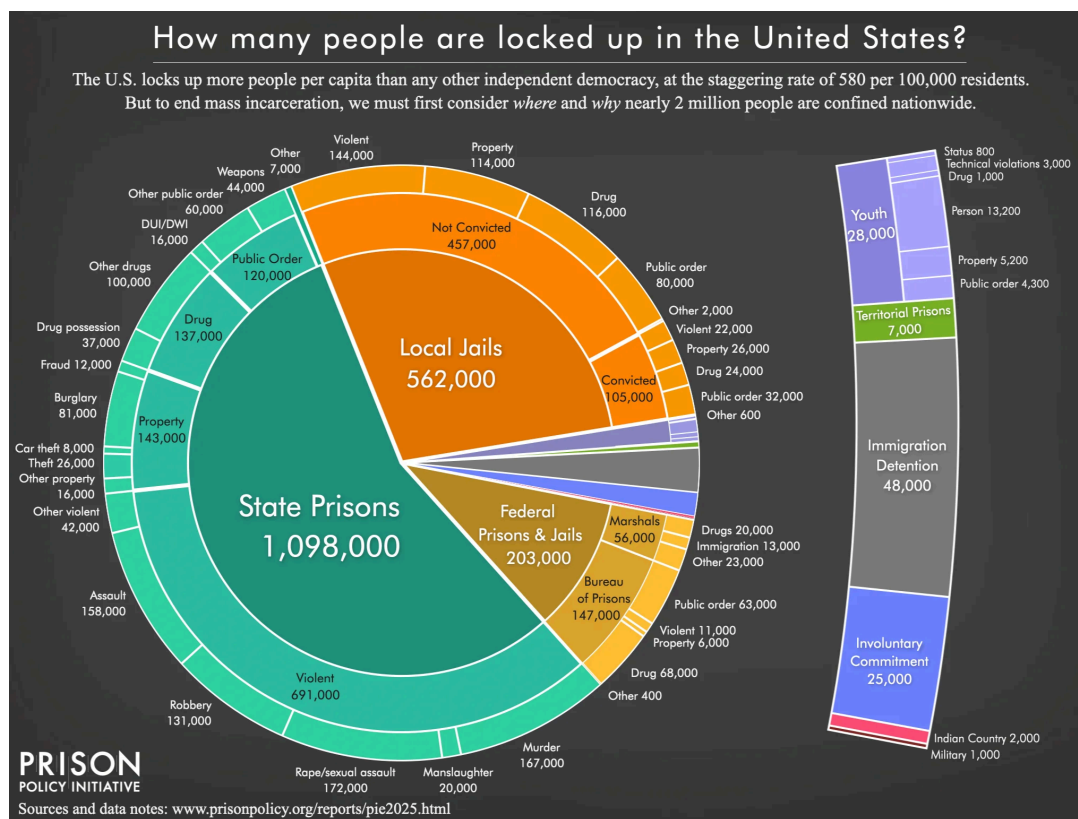
ROMANS 5:5



In anticipation of the Church's Jubilee of Prisoners celebration in December, Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition is raising awareness, inviting reflection, and sharing information about incarceration through the lens of the Catholic faith.

**2025 JUBILEE OF PRISONERS
12/14/2025
ST. PETER'S BASILICA**

"We risk being imprisoned in a justice that doesn't allow one to easily get back up again and confuses redemption with punishment...There can't be sentences without windows of hope." (Pope Francis)





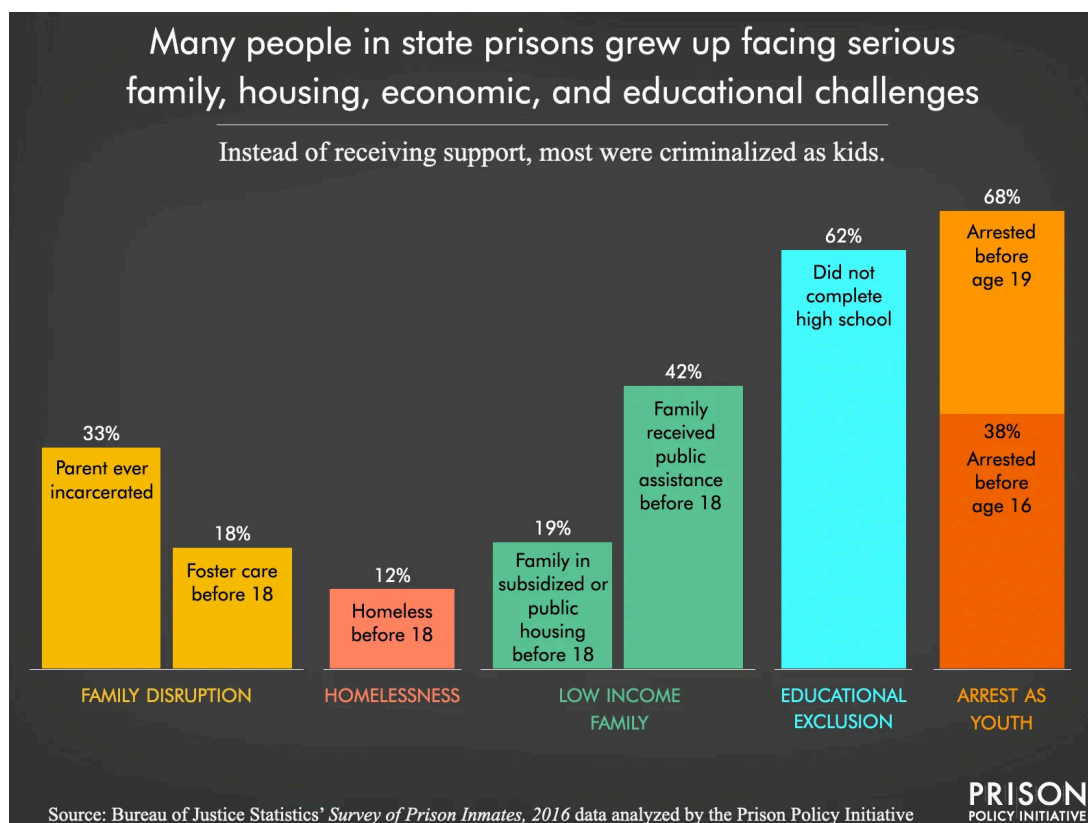
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2025 JUBILEE OF PRISONERS
12/14/2025
ST. PETER'S BASILICA

Compared to the general population of the United States, people in state prisons disproportionately struggled with homelessness and unemployment prior to incarceration.



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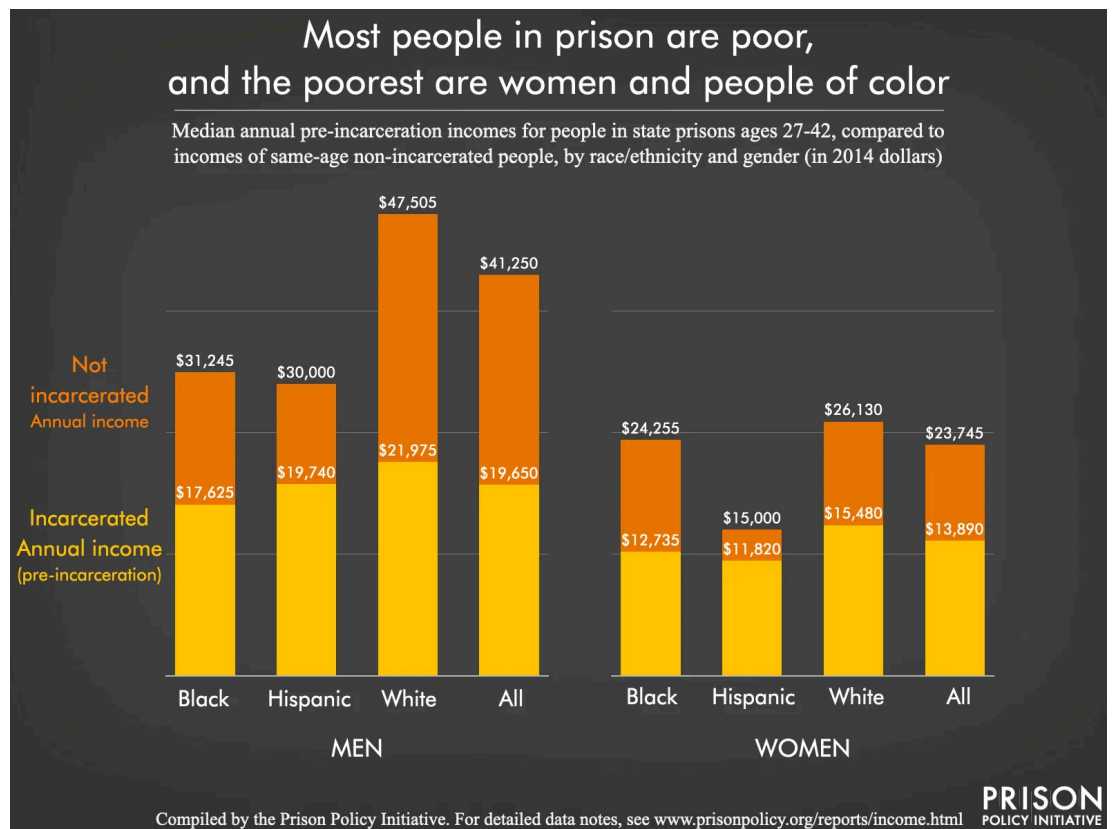
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**2025 JUBILEE OF PRISONERS
12/14/2025
ST. PETER'S
BASILICA**

Who are the people living behind the walls of prisons and jails?



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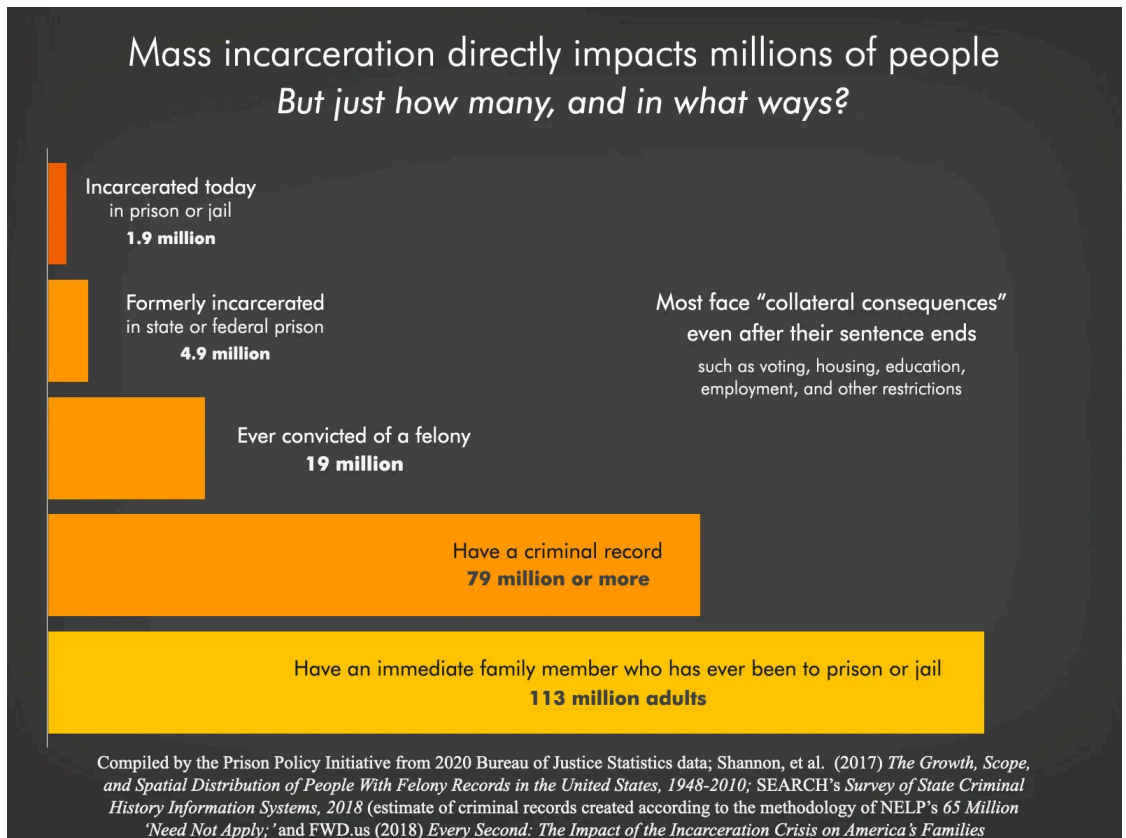
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**2025 JUBILEE OF PRISONERS
12/14/2025
ST. PETER'S BASILICA**

There are approximately 113 million Americans with at least one family member who has been to jail or prison.



www.catholicprisonministries.org

Appendix B

PILGRIMS OF HOPE **REFLECTIONS**

***Moving, thought-provoking
reflections perfect for parish
bulletins, faith-sharing groups
and Catholic Social Teaching
discussions***

PILGRIMS OF HOPE



As I stood behind the altar last Sunday night at Mass at the prison, I looked out at a full chapel—more than 100 prisoners gathered together—and once again, in their faces I saw something that moved me to tears. I didn't see criminals, I saw something that, quite frankly is the greatest gift of my life—I saw in them what they probably cannot see in themselves; I saw the Glory of the Lord revealed, in human flesh, in tattooed necks and shaved heads, in white and black and brown, in murderers and sex offenders and bank robbers and drug addicts. If I were to die tomorrow, this grace would be enough; I would be grateful forever to have caught a glimpse of the face of God in that moment.

This is why I am so grateful and blessed to have the privilege of being a priest for them in the prison. It's not naïve romanticizing—I hear their confessions, I know why they are there. I know there are many people they have hurt along the way. But I also know, because I have been allowed inside some of their hearts, that they have seen and suffered things I can barely imagine. Somehow (it can only be the Grace of God), they survive, and they are hungry for hope, for forgiveness and healing.

Ironically, I find prisoners are like the rest of us, only more honest sometimes because they've been broken down and exposed. So, in that brutal place of punishment and revenge, I often experience what I can only describe as joy. Because the power of God's love revealed through Christ in the human spirit is stronger than the hardest steel bars or sharpest razor wire.

By Fr. George Williams, S.J., Catholic Chaplain at San Quentin Rehabilitation Center

Questions for Reflection

- When was a time I saw God's reflection in an unexpected place or person?
- How have I affirmed the presence of God in others?
- What person or people have I ignored to or kept at a distance?
- How will I respond to God's invitation from the reflection above?



PILGRIMS OF HOPE



In announcing the Jubilee Year and declaring us “Pilgrims of Hope,” Pope Francis specifically asked us to consider working for peace and an end to conflicts, promoting human life, showing amnesty to prisoners, upholding the dignity of migrants, healing the sick, and accompanying the elderly.

Want to Get Involved?

Consider becoming a Pen Pal with someone who is incarcerated, volunteering with the diocese prison and jail ministry, supporting a local reentry organization such as St. Vincent De Paul.

1 in 2 adults in the U.S. has had an incarcerated immediate family member.

Prayer for Discipleship

God of Boundless Compassion,
Softener of our hearts that our eyes might see you in all people impacted by the justice system.
Stir within us a desire to do your will and accompany those on the margins of society: the hurt, the poor, the homeless, the incarcerated, our neighbors.
Send our community of disciples to reflect your mercy and healing presence.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord. *Amen.*



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PILGRIMS OF HOPE



I can still remember the first Mother's Day I spent here, feeling as if a piece of my heart was missing. The regret and shame of not being with my child or my own mother was so overwhelming it felt as if I were drowning. I knew that in order to survive I needed to find a way to take that pain and turn it into something beautiful. After many, many years here I have come to realize that is what life is about for all of us: taking the pain in our lives and turning it into something beautiful, something that reflects God's love for all of us. I have come to know that what the enemy has stolen from us, the Lord will restore in such beautiful and mysterious ways.

He has taken those destroyed places and rebuilt them. He has given me others to share Him with and to nurture—to call my own in profound ways. I will always miss what could have been, but He has given me a gift beyond measure. He spoke into my heart, "Love my children as I have loved you."

Being a mother goes far beyond giving birth to a child. It is a continuous giving of yourself to another human being. It is accompanying them with love. It is revealing the intricate ways the Lord works in our lives so that they never take for granted the gifts He gives to us each and every day. We must imitate Mary, who so willingly shared her son with us. Let us reflect on her life and her love for all humanity, and strive to love all whom we encounter as sacrificially as she did.

By Brittany Holberg. She is housed on Texas's death row for women, and is an Oblate of the Sisters of Mary Morning Star.

Reflection Prompts

- When was a time I let someone down in an impactful way?
- How did I seek to repair that harm?
- How is God inviting me to reflect the love of Mary to that person?
- I will take a moment to pray for someone I know who is separated from their family.



PILGRIMS OF HOPE



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Want to Get Involved?

Consider becoming a Pen Pal with someone who is incarcerated, volunteering with the diocese prison and jail ministry, supporting a local reentry organization such as St. Vincent De Paul.

2.7 million children in America have a parent in prison.

Prayer for Discipleship

God of Boundless Compassion,
Softener of our hearts that our eyes might see you in all people impacted by the justice system.
Stir within us a desire to do your will and accompany those on the margins of society: the hurt, the poor, the homeless, the incarcerated, our neighbors.
Send our community of disciples to reflect your mercy and healing presence.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord. *Amen.*



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PILGRIMS OF HOPE



I spent 27 months in federal prison from 2013 to 2015. I was fortunate my sentence was relatively brief, and even more fortunate my family and friends supported and visited me frequently during my incarceration. These visits from the “rest of the world” made my incarceration bearable and reminded me that people still cared about me.

One of our long-time Catholic volunteers told me a story about the impact of presence in our ministry. On Superbowl Sunday he showed up at his normal time. The boys had the option of watching the Superbowl or participating in religious programming per the facility schedule. As you would expect, almost all of the young men decided to watch the Super Bowl, except for three. Our volunteer asked them why they decided to come to Bible study instead of watching the Superbowl. They simply replied, “You come here every Sunday to be with us. We did not think it was right for you to sit alone after you came all this way to see us.” You see, presence does matter!

Prison and jail ministry is a special calling. We may not all have the capacity or the time to join a prison ministry group to accompany those who are currently incarcerated, but we can pray for our incarcerated men and women and accompany them in prayer and “agapeic love”—understanding that we are in communion with them regardless of the fences and the walls that may separate us from everyday encounters.

By Bobby Ehnou, Ph.D., Director for the Office for Life, Peace & Justice at the Diocese of San Diego.

Questions for Reflection

- Who in my life most frequently reflects the love of God to me?
- Who shows up to support me, regardless of life circumstances?
- When have I showed up for someone when they needed another’s presence?
- How can I show up to support those who are cut off from community?



PILGRIMS OF HOPE



Last August, for the first time in over 10 years, I visited the A-yard and C-yard chapels in New Folsom State Prison. My history as a volunteer at the maximum-security prison dates back to when I started a one-year commitment as a full-time volunteer Catholic chaplain with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. There have been significant changes—including the building of a large medical facility. Still, much has remained the same. The powdery dirt, yellow grass, and cement that cover the recreation yards look the same. So do the cold, gray, cinder block chapels. Further, a tremendous amount of pain, violence, and suffering continue to permeate the prison grounds. After all, prisons in the United States are dark places that largely follow a model of retribution instead of rehabilitation.

However, what struck me most was the similar feeling that returned to my heart when I walked through the sally port and past the deadly electric fences. It was the same feeling that I felt as a 22-year-old when I attempted to make sense of a place where rage, destruction, and death somehow co-existed with profound love, healing, and new life. I again felt the presence of Christ in a way that I do not experience anywhere else. When I pause and listen closely, this presence subtly and boldly proclaims themes familiar to followers of Jesus: life over death, trust over fear, love over hatred, hope over despair, non-violence over violence.

By Greg Mellor, an experienced minister who has served as Catholic Chaplain at New Folsom State Prison in California.

Questions for Reflection

- What experiences or relationships do I have that also keep my faith alive?
- How have those experiences or relationships changed over time?
- Do I challenge myself to grow and encounter Christ differently?
- How is God inviting me to be more vulnerable and open to others?



PILGRIMS OF HOPE



Mary, Mother of Captives



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Your Son came to proclaim liberty
Soften our captive hearts
Hardened by distrust and judgement
Give us grace to see the dignity of all
The captives, the captors, the survivors, the families
By your example, teach us to be gentle
Show us how to be restorers of peace and
wholeness
By your example, teach us the power and
disruption of “yes”
Show us how to challenge injustice and apathy
By your example, teach us the gift of persistent
patience
Show us how to listen to the unheard, the guilty,
the innocent, the forgotten
Mother of Captives
Inspire us, move us, be with us.
Amen.

Copies of the Mary, Mother of Captives prayer card can be ordered at the CPMC website below.



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PILGRIMS OF HOPE



María, Madre de los Cautivos



Catholic Prison Ministries
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Tu Hijo vino a proclamar la libertad
Suaviza nuestros corazones cautivos
Endurecidos por la desconfianza y el juicio
Danos la gracia de ver la dignidad de todos,
Los prisioneros, los captores, los sobrevivientes, las familias
Con tu ejemplo, enséñanos a ser dóciles
Muéstranos cómo ser restauradores de paz y unidad
Con tu ejemplo, enséñanos el poder y la disrupción del “sí”
Muéstranos cómo desafiar la injusticia y la apatía.
Con tu ejemplo, enséñanos el don de la paciencia persistente.
Muéstranos cómo escuchar a los que nadie quiere oír, a los culpables, a los inocentes, y a los olvidados
Madre de Cautivos, inspíranos, muévenos, quédate con nosotros.
Amén.

Copies of the María, Madre de los Cautivos prayer card can be ordered at the CPMC website.



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PILGRIMS OF HOPE



Back at La Esperanza that morning, we waited for our fellow volunteers outside across the street, and then passed through locked doors, the main gate and security check points where we were searched and scanned. We walked along outdoor corridors with high walls and past long rows of men handcuffed to railings. Finally, we came to the chapel, which was shaking from the sound of joyful music and singing.

As we entered, we were greeted by waves of men, dressed in white and numbering in the hundreds, their eyes smiling from behind their masks. They reached out their hands and we reached out ours in a demonstration of shared human connection. If heaven has an entrance, it must be like the gauntlet of joy that we experienced as we entered the chapel. And that shared joy continued unabated.

The Gospel was read, and we heard Thomas say that he needed to see the holes in Jesus' hands and feet before he would believe. Our experiences of doubt and fear, pain and suffering, and love and mercy were brought together, and there was a clear sense of oneness. The doors were locked, and yet, as the bread was broken and shared, Jesus appeared, stood in our midst, and his peace came upon us. As the apostles and other disciples in the locked room were transformed from being many to being one, we became united in prayer and song, in our respect and hope for one another, in our fundamental goodness, and our belief in something bigger than our individual selves. Our eyes were opened in faith, everyone looked at each other and essentially said, "I see you." Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul (Acts 4:32).

By Bob Cunningham, the executive director of CPMC, a lifelong prison ministry volunteer, and recently returned Maryknoll Lay Missioner in El Salvador

Question for Reflection

- What can this story teach us about the power of shared humanity to transcend barriers of physical space and social status?



Appendix C

LITURGICAL RESOURCES

*Ready-to-implement programs,
prayers, and video resources for
parishes, prison ministry groups,
and prison chaplains*

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL



Presider: Almighty God, we come to you today relying on your constancy and care for your people. We offer these our petitions and humbly ask you to receive them and send us forth to be your hands and feet in the world.

Lector: The response is: *Compassionate God, pray for us.*

Lector: God of Infinite Love, fill and soften the hearts of all your people. May we respond with your compassion and understanding to our sisters and brothers impacted by crime and the justice system. We pray...

R. Compassionate God, pray for us.

Lector: God of Moses, David, and Zechariah, touch the hearts of our leaders with your instruction. May they reflect your mercy and justice in the decisions and policies they make in our name. We pray...

R. Compassionate God, pray for us.

Lector: God of Hope, speak your words of love, healing, and compassion to those who are incarcerated, returning from incarceration and facing an uncertain future. May your forgiveness be like a river, washing away past faults and restoring a holy hope for what will be. We pray...

R. Compassionate God, pray for us.

Lector: God of Life, send your Spirit to aid our sisters and brothers condemned to death by the state. May the fire of your love bring an end to state sanctioned execution and begin the work of healing and restoration. We pray...

R. Compassionate God, pray for us.

Lector: God of Community, by your example, move us to accompany the women, men, and children of (parish/city name) who have been impacted by the carceral system or wrongs committed against them. May we be agents of compassion, seeking to restore right relationship. We pray...

R. Compassionate God, pray for us.

Lector: God of Nearness, we take a few moments to silently lift up the prayers of our hearts...(pause)... We pray...

R. Compassionate God, pray for us.

Presider: God of All, trusting in your divine embrace, we lift these, our heartfelt petitions, to you knowing they are heard and will be answered in the fullness of time, bringing your entire people to yourself. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



JUBILEE PRAYER OF HOPE



Composed for the 2025 Jubilee of Hope

God of infinite mercy and love, in this Jubilee Year of Hope, we turn to you with trust and confidence.

You sent your Son Jesus Christ to bring good news to the poor, liberty to captives, and freedom to the oppressed.

We pray especially for our brothers and sisters who are imprisoned, that they may know your love and mercy, find hope in their darkness, and experience the possibility of new life.

We pray for their families, who bear the burden of separation and pain. Grant them strength, comfort, and support in their time of need.

We pray for victims of crime, that they may find healing and peace, and that justice may be tempered with mercy.

We pray for all who work in our criminal justice system: judges, lawyers, police officers, prison staff, and volunteers. Guide them in their service and help them to see the dignity in every person.

Open our hearts to hope, strengthen our commitment to justice, and inspire us to be instruments of your peace.

Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



LITANY FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



Response: *Lord, hear our prayer*

For all who have been harmed by crime, that they may find healing and peace...

For those who have caused harm, that they may find forgiveness and make amends...

For families torn apart by crime and punishment, that they may be reunited in love...

For judges and juries, that they may be guided by wisdom and compassion...

For police officers and investigators, that they may serve with integrity and fairness...

For lawyers and advocates, that they may seek truth and justice...

For prison staff and administrators, that they may treat all persons with dignity...

For volunteers in prison ministry, that they may be sustained in their service...

For communities affected by crime, that they may work toward healing and prevention...

For lawmakers and policymakers, that they may create just and effective laws...

For all who work toward criminal justice reform, that their efforts may bear fruit...

For the conversion of hearts and the transformation of systems, that justice may roll down like waters...

Amen.



C COMMUNITY PRAYER SERVICE

Questions to Consider while Planning

Where will the event be held?

If there is a correctional center or detention facility served by your parish or diocese, consider hosting a prayer service right outside the facility. Gathering outside a detention facility is generally permitted while you are using public property. You may need permission for something like amplified sound. It is best to consult local regulations about gatherings in public spaces to ensure compliance with the law.

The service can also be used within a parish or in another setting. In this case, you can name nearby institutions.

Whose voices will lead the service?

This template is designed so that anyone can be a leader. It is particularly meaningful when individuals who are directly impacted by incarceration are involved, or volunteers who visit an incarceration facility on a regular basis.

What supplies will I need?

The materials you will need depends on the location of your event and the size of your expected crowd. For example, a small crowd likely will not need any sound amplification. If your attendees are driving some distance to reach an incarceration facility, consider access to restrooms and seating.

How can we include individuals who are currently incarcerated in our service? Since this jubilee event is intended to open the doors of the church to those who are incarcerated, consider creative ways to involve individuals who are currently incarcerated in your service. Here are some ideas:

- Invite families to bring photos of their loved ones who are imprisoned, or request permission from individuals your organization visits to use their photos and first names or initials. Display these prominently or have them held by people facing the audience.
- Let those you serve know ahead of time the date and time of your service and invite them to join in prayer. If you can, share a copy of the program or a special prayer card.
- Invite individuals who are incarcerated to write prayers or reflections ahead of time to be read aloud during the service.



CMMUNITY PRAYER SERVICE

ELEMENTS OF PRAYER SERVICE

The following elements are suggestions for your order of service. Make adjustments as needed for your particular setting and style of service.

Opening & Closing Songs

Suggestions:

Pilgrims of Hope Official Jubilee 2025 Hymn

Jubilee Song (Jamie Rivera)

The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor (Psalm 34)

Be Not Afraid

Caminaré / Yes, I Will Walk

Lead Me, Guide Me

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Amazing Grace

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Welcome, we gather today as Pilgrims of Hope, part of the global Jubilee 2025. Across the Church, communities are praying with and for those who are incarcerated, those reentering society, and all who are affected by the criminal justice system. Today, we remember those behind bars, to uplift their humanity, to pray for healing and dignity, and to proclaim that no one is forgotten by God. As Pope Francis reminds us, 'Christian hope does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God's love.' Let us walk in prayerful solidarity with our sisters and brothers in prison, and all who carry wounds from the justice system."

Opening Prayer

God of freedom and mercy, You sent your Son to proclaim liberty to captives and to bind up the brokenhearted. In this holy Jubilee, awaken in us your Spirit of compassion. May our prayers rise for those who are locked away, for families torn apart, for victims of crime, and for communities aching for justice. Let this prayer be a light that breaks through walls — a sign of your love that never fails. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Or

[Jubilee 2025 Prayer](#)



www.catholicprisonministries.org

C COMMUNITY PRAYER SERVICE

Scripture Reading

Choose one or more of the following or another appropriate scripture reading.

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall be to you forty-nine years. Then you shall send abroad the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the day of atonement you shall send abroad the loud trumpet throughout all your land. And you shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants; it shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his family. (Lev 25:8-10)

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril or the sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8:35-39)

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Lk 4:17-19)

The Gospel of the Lord.



COMMUNITY PRAYER SERVICE

Testimony or Reflection

Invite someone from the community who has felt the impact of incarceration to share a reflection on the meaning of a Jubilee Year. You may also consider preparing ahead of time by inviting individuals who are incarcerated to write out a reflection to be read aloud.

Some questions to consider in the reflection might be:

- How have you been personally impacted by incarceration?
- What does it mean to you to gather with the community in prayer, hope and solidarity with those who are currently incarcerated?
- What strengthens your hope in the midst of injustice, violence and the dehumanization of our brothers and sisters who are incarcerated?
- What does it mean to be people who live the spirit of the jubilee?

As an alternative, you may have someone read the attached excerpt from Pope Francis' Proclamation of the Jubilee Year.

Intercessory Prayers

For all who are incarcerated: (pause) may they know they are not alone. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For families torn apart by incarceration: (pause) may they experience reconciliation, peace, and community support. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For those harmed by crime and violence: (pause) may they may find healing and peace. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For all who work in prisons — officers, chaplains, wardens, ministers: (pause) may they uphold human dignity. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For an end to the death penalty and for a justice system rooted in restoration, not retribution (pause). Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For the monthly intention of the Holy Father, that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

(Add any intentions offered by the community)



C COMMUNITY PRAYER SERVICE

Ritual of Light and Jubilee Commitment

Materials Needed: Candles (can be vigil-style candles or battery-operated)

Invite everyone to light or turn on their candles. Even if the candles are battery-operated, you may wish to follow a sequence, such as going around the circle, or turning to the person next to you. As candles are being lit, say (and repeat as needed, or plan a song if you expect a large crowd):

We light these candles for those who feel forgotten. We light these candles for those awaiting trial. We light them for mothers and fathers behind bars, for children separated, for the condemned, the wrongfully convicted, and the newly returned. May this light pierce the darkness of despair.

Invite a minute or two of silent prayer with candles lit. To extend this portion of the service, you may also wish to include a Litany of the Saints.

Response: *We commit to be your Jubilee people.*

Leader: So that every chain may be broken by mercy —

All: *We commit to be your Jubilee people.*

Leader: So that every instance of oppression may be righted by justice —

All: *We commit to be your Jubilee people.*

Leader: So that every person may be honored with dignity —

All: *We commit to be your Jubilee people.*

Leader: So that every wound may be healed by love —

All: *We commit to be your Jubilee people.*

Faithful God, we are committed to being your Jubilee people. Help us realize that we have gifts, talents, and influence that you intend us to use for good. Help us use the privilege we have in order that your world might become a better place. Help us to proclaim release for the captives and to set oppressed peoples free. We commit ourselves to working for your Jubilee justice. Let it roll down like a river.



C COMMUNITY PRAYER SERVICE

The Lord's Prayer & Hail Mary

Closing Blessing

May the God of Mercy walk with all who are imprisoned.

May Christ the Liberator set all captives free.

May the Spirit stir our hearts to action, to justice, and to unwavering hope.

And may we go forth as Pilgrims of Hope, bringing light where there is shadow, and love where there is pain.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sending Forth

Go forth in hope.

Go forth in solidarity.

Go forth in the power of the Gospel that liberates captives and restores the brokenhearted,

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Alternate Reflection, from Pope Francis' Proclamation of the Jubilee Year:

In our journey towards the Jubilee, let us return to Scripture and realize that it speaks to us in these words: "May we who have taken refuge in him be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered" (Heb 6:18-20).

Those words are a forceful encouragement for us never to lose the hope we have been given, to hold fast to that hope and to find in God our refuge and our strength.

The image of the anchor is eloquent; it helps us to recognize the stability and security that is ours amid the troubled waters of this life, provided we entrust ourselves to the Lord Jesus. The storms that buffet us will never prevail, for we are firmly anchored in the hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ and to overcome sin, fear and death. This hope, which transcends life's fleeting pleasures and the achievement of our immediate goals, makes us rise above our trials and difficulties, and inspires us to keep pressing forward, never losing sight of the grandeur of the heavenly goal to which we have been called.



CMMUNITY PRAYER SERVICE

The coming Jubilee will thus be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation. May the witness of believers be for our world a leaven of authentic hope, a harbinger of new heavens and a new earth (cf. 2 Pet 3:13), where men and women will dwell in justice and harmony, in joyful expectation of the fulfilment of the Lord's promises.

Let us even now be drawn to this hope! Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it. May the way we live our lives say to them in so many words: "Hope in the Lord! Hold firm, take heart and hope in the Lord!" (Ps 27:14). May the power of hope fill our days, as we await with confidence the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and glory, now and forever.

Amen.



JUBILEE OF PRISONERS SERVICE



A 30-Minute Liturgical Program for Prison Chapels

Purpose: *To enable inmates to participate in the Jubilee Year 2025, particularly the Jubilee of Prisoners in December, fostering hope, repentance, and spiritual renewal, with the opportunity to gain the plenary indulgence under the conditions outlined by the Apostolic Penitentiary.*

Setting: *Prison chapel, with a simple altar, cross, or candle to create a sacred space. Participants may be seated or gathered as space allows.*

Duration: *Approximately 30 minutes*

Leader: *Chaplain, priest, or trained lay leader*

Note: *For inmates to receive the plenary indulgence, they must have a detachment from sin, participate in sacramental confession (within about 20 days, if possible), receive Holy Communion (if a priest is available to offer Mass), and pray for the Pope's intentions (e.g., an Our Father and Hail Mary). If sacramental participation is not feasible due to logistical constraints, inmates can still gain the indulgence by uniting spiritually with the Jubilee, reciting the Our Father, a Profession of Faith, and offering their sufferings, as per the Apostolic Penitentiary's decree.*

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/jubilee-indulgence-2025-26585>



JUBILEE OF PRISONERS SERVICE



A 30-Minute Liturgical Program for Prison Chapels

Welcome and Introduction (3 minutes)

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Dear brothers and sisters, we gather as pilgrims of hope in this Jubilee Year 2025, a special time of grace and mercy declared by Pope Francis. The theme “Pilgrims of Hope” invites us to trust in God’s love, which never disappoints (Romans 5:5). Today, especially as we celebrate the Jubilee of Prisoners, we unite our hearts with the universal Church, seeking forgiveness, renewal, and the hope that leads us closer to Christ. Let us open our hearts to this sacred moment, offering our struggles and joys to God, who calls us to be signs of hope for one another.

Opening Hymn (2 minutes):

Pilgrims of Hope (official Jubilee hymn, available in multiple languages on the Vatican Jubilee website). If music is unavailable, proceed to the penitential rite.

Penitential Rite (5 minutes)

Leader: As pilgrims on a journey of conversion, let us acknowledge our sins and seek God’s mercy, trusting in His promise of forgiveness and hope.

All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.



JUBILEE OF PRISONERS SERVICE



Leader: Let us pray one of the Jubilee Penitential Act formularies, invoking God's mercy: Lord Jesus, you are the door of salvation: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Christ Jesus, you lead us to the Father's mercy: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you make us pilgrims of hope: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Scripture Readings (8 minutes)

Leader: Let us listen to the Word of God, which speaks of hope, mercy, and liberation, guiding us as pilgrims in this Jubilee Year.

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 (read by leader or volunteer)

Reader: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor... I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness... For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations."
The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Note: This passage echoes the biblical Jubilee (Leviticus 25) and Jesus' mission (Luke 4:18-19), emphasizing liberation and hope, fitting for prisoners.



JUBILEE OF PRISONERS SERVICE



Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-20, 22 (read or sung, with response)

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, for praise is fitting for the upright.

All: Let your mercy be on us, O Lord, as we place our hope in you.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; sing praises to him with the harp.

All: Let your mercy be on us, O Lord, as we place our hope in you.

Leader: The Lord's word is upright, and all his works are trustworthy. He loves justice and right; the earth is full of the Lord's kindness.

All: Let your mercy be on us, O Lord, as we place our hope in you.

Leader: Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield.

All: Let your mercy be on us, O Lord, as we place our hope in you.

Gospel Acclamation: (spoken or sung)

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor (Luke 4:18).

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 4:16-19 (read by leader or chaplain)

"[Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'"



JUBILEE OF PRISONERS SERVICE



Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection and Passage from a Saint (5 minutes)

Leader: Let us reflect on the hope offered to us in this Jubilee Year. Pope Francis reminds us, “Hope does not disappoint” (*Spes Non Confundit*, Romans 5:5), because it is rooted in God’s love poured into our hearts. As prisoners, you are not forgotten; Christ comes to you, offering freedom of the soul through His mercy.

Passage from St. John Paul II (from his 2000 Jubilee message to prisoners):

“Dear brothers and sisters in prison, the Jubilee is a time of grace for you too. Christ comes to bring you freedom—not just freedom of the body, but the deeper freedom of the spirit. Let your hearts be open to His mercy, for in Him, you are never alone. Your suffering, offered to God, becomes a path to hope and redemption.”

Brief Reflection (by leader or chaplain):

In this Jubilee of Prisoners, Jesus speaks directly to you: “release to the captives.” His mercy is your hope. No matter your past, God’s love is stronger than any chain. Offer your struggles to Him today, and trust that He walks with you as a fellow pilgrim.



JUBILEE OF PRISONERS SERVICE



Jubilee-Themed Litany of Hope (5 minutes)

Leader: Let us pray together a litany, asking the saints and the Blessed Virgin Mary to intercede for us as we seek hope in this Jubilee Year.

Litany of Hope (adapted for the Jubilee theme):

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Holy Mary, Mother of Hope,

All: Pray for us.

Leader: St. Peter, first among the apostles,

All: Pray for us.

Leader: St. Paul, apostle of hope in chains,

All: Pray for us.

Leader: St. John Paul II, witness to mercy,

All: Pray for us.



JUBILEE OF PRISONERS SERVICE



Leader: St. Faustina, apostle of Divine Mercy,

All: Pray for us.

Leader: St. Dismas, the good thief,

All: Pray for us.

Leader: All holy men and women, pilgrims of hope,

All: Pray for us.

Leader: For prisoners, that they may find hope in Christ,

All: We pray to you, O Lord.

Leader: For the Church, that it may be a beacon of mercy,

All: We pray to you, O Lord.

Leader: For the world, that it may know peace and justice,

All: We pray to you, O Lord.

Leader: O God, our refuge and strength, guide us as pilgrims of hope in this Jubilee Year. Through the intercession of Mary and all the saints, grant us your mercy and the grace to live as your beloved children. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.



JUBILEE OF PRISONERS SERVICE



Prayers for the Pope's Intentions and Closing (4 minutes)

Leader: To receive the Jubilee indulgence, let us pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, entrusting the Church and the world to God's mercy.

Our Father

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...

Hail Mary

All: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee...

Profession of Faith (Apostles' Creed)

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord...

Closing Prayer

Leader: Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your Son, Jesus Christ, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel, so that we may bear fruit in hope and love. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you forever.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

Leader: Go in peace, as pilgrims of hope, glorifying the Lord by your lives.

All: Thanks be to God.



JUBILEE OF PRISONERS SERVICE



Notes for Implementation

Indulgence Conditions: Inmates unable to participate in sacraments due to confinement can still gain the indulgence by reciting the Our Father, a Profession of Faith, and offering their sufferings, uniting spiritually with the Church's Jubilee celebrations. Chaplains should encourage this spiritual participation.

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/jubilee-indulgence-2025-26585>

Adaptations: If a priest is available, the program can be incorporated into a Mass using the "Mass for the Holy Year" formulary. Without a priest, this non-Eucharistic service remains complete.

<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/votive-masses-and-various-needs/mass-for-the-holy-year>

Resources: Lyrics for the Jubilee hymn and additional prayers are available on the Vatican Jubilee 2025 website (Iubilaeum 2025). Scripture passages and litanies can be photocopied for participants if permitted.

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va>

Environment: A candle, cross, or image of the Jubilee logo (featuring the cross as an anchor of hope) can enhance the prayerful atmosphere.

Timing: Schedule this program in December 2025 to align with the Jubilee of Prisoners, ideally near the Feast of the Holy Family (December 28) or another significant date.



Appendix D

Video Resources

***Visually rich assets to share with
prison ministry teams and the
incarcerated men and women
they accompany***

JUBILEE OF PRISONERS CPMC RESOURCES



The CPMC Website is a treasure trove of resources for the Jubilee of Prisoners

<https://www.catholicprisonministries.org/jubilee>



A Virtual Jubilee Pilgrimage to Rome

A five-minute video, created by CPMC specifically for the Jubilee of Prisoners, that is perfect for chaplains and prison ministry teams to share with incarcerated men and women, allowing them to participate as fully as possible in the Jubilee celebration of the universal Church.

Video Homily by Fr. George Williams, SJ

Fr. George is the Catholic Chaplain on Death Row at San Quentin Rehabilitation Center, formerly known as San Quentin State Prison. Fr. George offers a beautiful homily that is perfect for Advent and the December celebration of the Jubilee of Prisoners.



www.catholicprisonministries.org

Appendix E

Practical Applications for Prison Ministry

*Suggestions for implementing
the Jubilee of Prisoners in your
ministry, parish, and diocese*

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS FOR PRISON MINISTRY

For Dioceses and Bishops

Policy Development

- Review and update diocesan policies on prison ministry
- Allocate resources for prison chaplains and volunteers
- Develop partnerships with corrections departments
- Create reentry support programs

Leadership Witness

- Visit local correctional facilities during the Jubilee Year
- Celebrate liturgies within prisons when possible
- Advocate publicly for humane prison conditions
- Support legislation promoting restorative justice

Educational Initiatives

- Provide training for prison ministry volunteers
- Educate seminarians about prison ministry
- Offer continuing education for clergy on pastoral care of prisoners
- Develop resources for families of incarcerated persons



For Parishes

Direct Ministry

- Establish or expand prison visitation programs
- Provide correspondence ministry for isolated prisoners
- Offer support groups for families of incarcerated persons
- Create reentry assistance programs

Advocacy and Awareness

- Organize prayer vigils for prisoners and their families
- Host educational events about criminal justice issues
- Support legislation promoting rehabilitation over punishment
- Partner with local organizations working for prison reform

Liturgical Life

- Include prisoners in parish prayer intentions
- Celebrate special liturgies for victims and offenders
- Offer Masses for families affected by crime and incarceration
- Provide opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

For Individual Catholics

Spiritual Practices

- Pray regularly for prisoners and their families
- Include prison ministry in personal charitable giving
- Fast in solidarity with those who are hungry in prison
- Study Catholic social teaching on criminal justice

Direct Service

- Volunteer with existing prison ministry programs
- Write letters to prisoners through approved programs
- Support reentry programs in local communities
- Advocate for humane prison conditions



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