Church of the Immaculate Conception

Ministry Binder

Ministry/Organization Name

Prison Ministry/Residents Encounter Christ

Ministry Lead

Name	Email	Phone
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Parish Affiliations

Immaculate Conception	Corpus Christi	St. Edwards

Meeting Schedule

Location	Varies
Time	Varies
Schedule	Varies
Time Commitment	Varies based on the time of year

Description/Mission

The Prison Ministry and/or Residents Encounter Christ's (REC) mission is to bring Christ's light to those who are incarcerated and in the process form a Christian community, that recognizes that God is present when two or more come together in God's name. Volunteer's of the prison ministry visit local prison facilities and county jails to invite the residents to help us create that Christian community in God's name. This is accomplished by providing an intense three-day weekend program/retreat within the prison. The major theme for each weekend retreat is to initiate a change of heart by realizing the need for change, experiencing God's grace, and embracing the opportunities of a new day with the Lord. Afterwards we provide timely follow-up meetings with the residents as well as trying support other Catholic activities within the facilities like Bible studies, Masses, and other fellowship opportunities.

Events/Activities

The Prison Ministry and/or REC brings Christ to a handful of the prisons with the Diocese of Albany. The events/activities available within a given year will vary as it is all dependent upon the approval by each individual facility. The goal of REC is to host two weekend retreats (Friday-Sunday) each year. On top of that we aim to provide monthly reunions within the facilities to encourage the seeds from the weekend retreats to continue to grow. We additionally try to provide continued support through bible studies and mass attendance with the facilities. The prisons will also occasionally invite REC volunteers to other events hosted by the Christian community with the facility.

Notes/Comments

Prision Ministry is a diocese wide ministry, made up of volunteers from numerous parishes. Volunteers have the option of volunteering at one specific facility or multpile if they so wish. The volunteers for faciliity make up that facilities REC team. Because the ministry is a diocese wide ministry a team can be made up of volunteers from multiple different parishes. As such how each parish promotes the ministry is up to them, and because of the nature of the teams a parish may not have a set minietry lead simlarly to other ministries.Typically, prison mistry does not have a set meeting schedule, like a parish's pastoral council does. Meetings for prison ministry revolve around the two retreat weekends a year. A one memebr of the facilities team will be the director for the weekend and they will scheudle meetings leading up to the weekend to ensure everything is prepared. These meetings will normally be located at the directors home parish. The time commitment for a volunteer will vary dependent on how much they want to be involved. Voluntees time commitment ebs and flows. More time is commited leading up to the retreat weekends and the weekend itself. Volunteers are giving flexibilty if they cannot commit to all three days of a weekends. Bewteen retreat weekends volunteers can commit as much time as they would like if they want to participate in montly reunions (~ 2-4 hours a month), and or bible studies (bible studies is facility dependent on how often a month). Additional the chrsitian community within the factility may invite the REC team to events, like Family Days, baptisms, confirmations, Chrismtas masses. These events are optional for the volunteer.

The three parishes listed above are not the only ones who also has volunteers within the prison ministry.