

CJM Parish Plan - 7/20/23

The TCCM Action Plan for parishes (below) will be presented to all priests at each of three deanery meetings during July / October 2023. The implementation steps, including the visit to parishes to review actions to be taken, will be discussed with each pastor at their parish.

These steps are as follows:

1. Make initial contact with pastor by letter, email or personal call to arrange a parish visit to talk about the CJM plan.
2. During initial visit, explain how diocesan coordinator (DC), pastor and ministry volunteers will work together. Topics to discuss will include:
 - a) Incarceration facilities in their area.
 - b) Current volunteers and programs being offered at each facility.
 - c) Additional volunteer needs to provide both worship and teaching programs at each facility.
 - d) A plan to work with pastor and pastoral council to identify individuals who might be willing to serve.
 - e) A date to come and preach to stimulate volunteer interest.
3. Contact and visit with potential candidate volunteers to:
 - a) Determine "why" they would like to serve.
 - b) Provide introduction to diocesan ministry program.
 - c) Discuss potential ministry role and type of facility to serve based on interest, capability and current skills.
4. Once approved by pastors, work with new volunteers to obtain:
 - a) Diocesan background screening and attend Ethic workshop.
 - b) Complete facility application and attend appropriate orientation.
 - c) Arrange a CJM training workshop for their attendance.
5. Work with pastor and parish council to identify CJM parish coordinator (PC) based on list of current volunteers. Determine if facility coordinators (FC) can be selected based on experience at prison of interest.
6. If PC has been assigned, let them work with new volunteers in their parish to complete steps in 4.

7. Once new volunteers are ready to begin ministry, hold initial assignment meeting with PC, appropriate FC and volunteers to discuss:
 - a) Facility assignment and duties.
 - b) Partner to team with to help in initial ministry effort.
 - c) Plans to follow-up in several months to assess progress.
8. Periodic meetings of pastor, DC, PC, FC and other volunteers to discuss:
 - a) Status of programs and volunteers involved at each facility.
 - b) CJM Training needs for volunteers.
 - c) Assignment issues and new volunteers.
 - d) Catholic material needs at each facility.
 - e) Inmate general feedback, and also individual progress of inmates toward sacramental preparation.
 - f) Scheduling issues with new worship / teaching programs, or changes.
 - g) FC will report on issues or direction from his interaction with facility chaplain, and any impact on Catholic activities.
 - h) Formation training needs for volunteers.
 - i) Interest of any volunteers to help teach CJM training program.
9. Work with pastor, PC and volunteers to establish a parish support group to reach out to those in community impacted by crime.
10. Work with parish support group to implement actions in the TCCM plan based on local interest and available volunteers.

These steps apply to a single parish in a city. Depending on the number of volunteers identified, the scheduling of workshops will be set either before or after preaching in the local parish. Also, new workshop trainers will be identified based on their skills and interest in helping to support this effort. In those cities with multiple parishes, the volunteer recruitment and placement efforts and the establishment of support groups will be jointly coordinated, as is the case in Abilene, Midland, San Angelo, Big Spring and Odessa (coming this fall).

It is critical that parishes identify a CJM parish coordinator (PC), and also that a facility coordinator (FC) at each facility be found. The FC will be very important, as he/she would be the focal point and contact point with the facility chaplain. The facility chaplain is responsible for the services to be offered and volunteer entry into the facility. The FC will play a key influence role in working with the chaplain.

TCCM Action Plan for Parishes

Priority One – Short Range Projects

- Assign a capable volunteer, clergy or lay, to coordinate criminal justice activities in the parish.
- Implement activities proposed by diocese for Criminal Justice Ministry Sunday to increase awareness and promote parish involvement through volunteer recruitment.
- Establish parish teams to visit prisons and detention facilities of both adults and juveniles to provide spiritual support, prayer, and the sacraments to the incarcerated using this process or something similar:
 - Visit the facility to be supported to determine any Catholic presence.
 - Seek support of the chaplain, jailer, sheriff, or warden to provide catholic activities within the facility.
 - Gather interested persons in parish together and brief them on nature of offenders: who they are, their lifestyle that led to incarceration, and what might be the means to address their problem. (video provided)
 - Support spiritual needs of inmates at each facility to the extent of the volunteer's abilities.
 - Encourage volunteers to participate in religious formation classes in the diocese and the parish to increase their own abilities.

Priority Two – Medium Range Projects

- In conjunction with Parish Social Ministries, St. Vincent de Paul Society Conferences, and Knights of Columbus through their charity work, provide material support to families of the incarcerated in need. Develop a relationship with local school counselors to help identify families in need who will accept support from the church.
- Develop a support group(s) for formerly incarcerated person in the community encouraging sobriety, employment and completion of high school or GED where

needed. Encourage faith groups to participate.

- Work with victims groups at the police and/or sheriffs departments to determine any assistance that can be provided, including moral support.

Priority Three - Longer Range Activities

- In conjunction with the sheriffs department and local mental health/ mental retardation facilities, focus on reducing the repeat jail population which fills most county jails involving low level offenses through diversion in to treatment programs, support groups, and monitoring programs. Develop community support for this.
- Encourage business owners in the parish to hire ex-offenders who want to stabilize. Let them view the video "Who Is In Prison..."
- Encourage the local judiciary and district and county attorneys to develop alternative sentencing for persons who really need treatment as opposed to incarceration. Particularly advocate for probation with treatment.

Adopt a law enforcement unit (police station, sheriff's office, probation office, parole office, county jail, state or federal prison) and provide support to those who operate the criminal justice system.