

Office for Social Ministry

Outline of Religious Service

led by Lay Catholic Detention Ministry volunteers

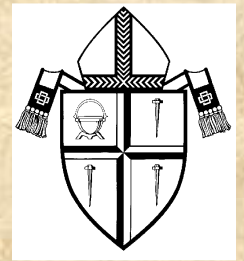
"I was in prison and you visited me." Mt 25:36

Our intent is only to bring the gifts of Christ's *presence, compassion, hope, and love.*

Follow all facility and diocesan rules.

1. **Announce** the service as a Catholic service.
2. **Opening prayer**
3. **Music:** establish the atmosphere with one piece of live or recorded music.
4. **Scripture and Discussion:** (readings - <http://www.usccb.org/nab/>)
 - a. A volunteer or resident proclaims the Gospel reading from the upcoming Sunday.
 - b. Facilitate discussion on the reading; offer encouragement and hope. No homily.
5. **Faith sharing:** facilitate discussion on spiritual issues residents may have. No lecturing.
6. **Prayer of intentions:** allow ample time and prompt residents to offer prayers for all their needs and for forgiveness. Residents primarily attend your service to pray.
7. **Optional Eucharistic Service** if permitted. See policy and procedure on next page. Alternatively, chaplains can bring Communion.
8. **Closing prayer and music**





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Policy and Procedure for Distribution of Holy Communion in Detention Facilities within the Diocese of San Diego

If you are not comfortable distributing Communion using this policy, please ask the Catholic Chaplain to talk to the inmates who request Communion.

Catholic Chaplains can arrange Reconciliation and/or Communion for inmates.

- Eucharistic service is optional. However, if you choose to hold a Eucharistic service, then you must follow this special Policy and Procedure.
- Determine from the Catholic chaplain if Communion is allowed in the facility in which you serve.
- An authorized Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion asks the group the following questions:
 1. Are you a Catholic? If so...
 2. Have you received your First Holy Communion? If so...
 3. Have you been to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) very recently or have you made an Act of Contrition with the intent of receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation at your very next opportunity?
 - You may lead an Act of Contrition to satisfy number 3.
 - If the answers are yes to all the questions, they may receive Communion.