



**KOLBE PRISON MINISTRIES**

**ONGOING FORMATION GUIDE**

**JULY 2025**



### **Goals of Ongoing Formation:** (Following the Kolbe Prison Ministries Retreat)

- Building a relationship with the (arch)diocese to supplement and develop strong prison ministry presence inside prison units within their diocese by sharing additional volunteers and Catholic content resources that are made available to Kolbe Prison Ministries.
- Strengthening an inmate's personal connections with Christ, His Word, and His Church by
- Fostering a deeper relationship with Jesus through spiritual and theological development.
  - Establishing a prayer life
  - Building a relationship with their Catholic church community inside the unit.
  - Building on the Spirit's work that occurred during the Kolbe retreat.
  - Scripture Study
  - Study of church history
- Embracing forgiveness (offering and asking) Extending family reconciliation
- Discipleship and love of neighbor.
- Addressing personal addictions
- Self-discipline with attention to a Christ-centered moral life.
- Prepare inquirers seeking full communion with the Catholic Church.
- Discovering the Beauty and Truth of the Roman Catholic Church
- Providing opportunities for individual, self-paced continuing spiritual and theological development:
  - Scripture
  - Catechism of the Catholic Church
  - Christian Literature/Conversion Stories
  - Podcasts/Book, Scripture, and Video Based continuous learning opportunities.
  - Mass and Celebration of the Sacraments regularly

### **Overview**

Kolbe Prison Ministries (KPM) presents 3-day Catholic retreats inside the walls of prisons. KPM endeavors to help inmate retreatants continue on their path of spiritual growth and personal development by introducing to them a range of continuing Catholic formations, processes, and programs. This guide provides a list of current formations, processes and programs implemented around the system. For additional information on any formation or program contact the Criminal Justice Director/Prison Coordinator for your (arch)diocese, the KPM Core Team Formation Coordinator, or unit Chaplain to identify or propose opportunities in your unit(s) or to establish a new regularly scheduled primary worship (Mass, Communion, Confession), spiritual formation, or theological study.

There are a variety of Catholic Resources that may be used by volunteer facilitators. This guide will offer suggested materials and best practices for your Core Team to support your diocese and prison ministry volunteers in identifying opportunities, practices, studies, and free available resources that facilitate the spiritual journey of inmates following a Kolbe Prison Ministries Retreat. **Ongoing formation is CRITICAL to the success of the inmates continuing faith journey, reduction in recidivism, and efforts to rebuild family dynamics and relationships that were fractured prior to incarceration.**

## Ongoing Catechesis and Primary Worship

- **Best Practice -It is especially important to develop a schedule that can be supported week to week with consistency. When recruiting volunteers consider your retreat volunteer base. Invite them to continue serving in the unit on a regular basis.**
  
- ❖ Sample categories to consider for introducing formation into a unit before or immediately following a Kolbe Prison Ministries Retreat:
  - Mass/Communion Service – weekly or biweekly
  - Sacrament of Confession – monthly
  - Adoration – monthly
  - Bible Study - weekly
  - Book Study-weekly
  - OCIA preparation (beginning apologetics) – weekly.
  - Personal Development (Catholic) – weekly
  - Retreat Reunions
    - KPM Reunion (following a retreat)
    - Renew (weekly where available)
  
- ❖ **Mass**
  - **Best practice – schedule once a month, the same day and time at a minimum.**
    - Access to Catholic Mass within the prison walls is not universal. While prison Chaplains usually try to accommodate the faith traditions of the various offenders, holding regular Catholic Mass behind the bars is typically determined by the availability and willingness of local priests (or other diocesan priests). In dioceses that have a priest designated for prison ministry, the scheduled offering of Mass is usually more frequent. The same is true for priests local to a given prison unit. However, there are many prisons that do not have regular or even periodic Mass celebrations. In many states, Primary Worship (Mass for Catholics) is a protected right of the incarcerated. Check with your local unit chaplain to see when Mass is offered or an available slot in the schedule to establish this worship time. While KPM volunteers, especially Core Team members, may not be able to celebrate Mass, they can be the promoters and organizers of the Mass schedules for the prisons. The same can be said for the scheduling of Reconciliations Services.
  
- ❖ **Communion**
  - **Best practice – schedule alternate weeks if Mass is not offered.**
  
- ❖ **Confessions**
  - **Best practice – schedule with the same frequency as Mass. If priest availability is limited, confessions might be offered during a Communion Service conducted by the deacon.**
  
- ❖ **Adoration**
  - **Best practice – schedule monthly with priest or deacon. Suggest music, chant or solemn hymn is digitally playing in the background provided by the Catholic unit choir. Follow up with Communion Service.**

- ❖ **Mass and offering the Sacraments** are the primary continuing catechesis opportunities that KPM encourages, promotes, facilitates, and/or leads with (arch) diocese support include:
  - Mass (Solemnities, Holy Days, Special Services, Rites and Scrutinies of OCIA, Dispensing Ash Wednesday ashes, Veneration of the Cross, Holy Thursday Mass, etc.)
    - \*Resources for the inmate Mass Sacristan
      - General Information of the Roman Missal (GIRM) Great education for the inmate population that prepares for Mass and OCIA facilitators.
      - Mass Kit
      - Monstrance
      - Thurible (coal and incense)
      - Ambo
      - Table (Altar)
      - Altar Cloths that support the Liturgical Calendar
      - Lighter will need preapproval from warden and carried in/out by the volunteer.
      - Battery candles or wick candles (if allowed)
    - Special Services
      - Good Friday/Veneration
      - Holy Thursday
      - Ash Wednesday Ash Distribution
      - Sacraments Mass
      - Other Holy Days
      - Adoration Services
      - Recommend in conjunction with Communion Service or Mass offered with the Catholic Community.
      - Communion Services
  - Music
    - Sacred Music is music that gives God the glory. Sacred music should be used in Mass. This is not necessarily “Praise and Worship” music that often focuses on the self, the singer, or the choir. Sacred Music calls the entire assembly to participate in singing praise to God. It can include chanting of psalms or hymns for other special worship like Adoration.
    - Liturgy Planning music is available through CCLI.  
<https://songselect.ccli.com/search/liturgicalcalendar>
    - KPM offers a CCLI license for units to copy music lyrics for retreats or Mass. The chord, lead, and vocal sheets are available with an additional subscription. A report should be submitted to KPM including the songs, frequency sung and location. (Preferably every 6 months- Communications and Marketing Committee email: [info@kolbeprisonministries.org](mailto:info@kolbeprisonministries.org))
  - Holy Days
  - Prepare the week before with announcements or reflections.
  - Encourage Liturgy of the Word Service or Communion Service if Mass is not available.
  - Incorporate the liturgical calendar and liturgical colors in the announcements. Any special litanies or prayers associated with the Holy Day also provides an additional element of catechesis.
  - Sacraments Mass

- To be scheduled with Bishop/Priest as candidates and catechumens complete OCIA preparation
- Most units dictate the day of the week that Mass is offered. The priest may choose Sunday reading or different readings for a variety of reasons provided they are texts of an approved Lectionary (GIRM 358) Consult with clergy or deacon to determine and prepare readings.
- Schedules
  - Establish a monthly schedule with the same time and day of the week for primary worship. We recommend submitting special days, Holy Day of Obligation (HDOs), Bishop Mass, etc. to seek approval of the chaplain as early as possible.
  - Establish Mass, Confessions, Communion service, Adoration time with regular frequency by week, if possible.
- ❖ **Priests/Deacons Role** – The parish assigned to the unit has the ultimate authority over religious services and Mass as well as recording, documenting, and advising inmate home parish locations of Sacraments of Initiation that are administered. (See OCIA Inquirer’s form for necessary information to record a Sacrament – Attachment 1) Coordinate with the (arch) diocese prison ministry director for preferred method of acquiring, investigating, preparing, and recording and Sacraments.
- ❖ **OCIA Preparation**
  - ***Best Practice – offer a short-term apologetics or similar video-based study for inquirers into the faith. Bishop Barron Catholicism series or Catholic Answers Apologetics Book 1 are excellent companions during this period. Invite to Sacramental Preparation once the inquirer indicates desire.***
  - Contact the local Criminal Justice Director for your diocese for approvals and requirements for catechists. (Can be inmate led, if qualified)
  - Sacramental Records
    - Each unit has a home parish. Verify with the priest of the home parish how they wish to research individual inquirers forms for RCIA candidate and catechumens preparing for Sacraments. Check with your (arch) diocese director of prison ministry.
    - TX – typically does not allow special paper for Baptism records. (varies by unit) Often, an email from the Diocesan Criminal Justice Director can confirm the home parish of the inmate. This information is provided to the prison unit parish records keeper for official Sacraments documentation and notification of the Confirmandi’s home parish that Sacraments were administered, if applicable.
    - LA-
    - KS
    - FL
    - OK
  - Approved Inquiry Form (Attachment 1)
  - Available Resources
    - Dismas Ministry
    - Liquori Publications – Journey of Faith
    - Kolbe Prison Ministries – 28-week course plan (website)
    - The Paulist Press - Invitation/Invitacion
    - Symbolon
    - Bible Study / Video Based Programs

- Ascension Press
- Didache Series (Midwest Theological)
- Knights of Columbus (free)
- Paulist Press
- Augustine Institute
- Word on Fire

❖ **Personal Catholic Development Programs**

➤ **Journeyman (Catholic Life skills)**

This series of courses is designed for participants in incarcerated communities seeking a faith-based approach to personal development and embodies the core competencies of the Catholic Church with an increased awareness of the Vocation of Lay People in all temporal affairs.

Participants engage in fellowship, self-discovery and critical thinking exercises which help them prepare for social re-entry. Activities assimilate a doorway or threshold of change to previous decisions and actions that led to incarceration. A journeyman style of discovery to lifelong learning, the program also strives to create an active community in the unit with a positive influence.

*Overview*

Participants receive instruction, encouragement, and motivation through an engaging curriculum to apply the skills, knowledge, and abilities to instill a desire for lifelong learning. Coordinators (brother & sister volunteers) in collaboration with various Unit chaplains provide support and guidance for each stage.

*Retreats*

Spiritual retreats are conducted using a Kolbe Prison Retreat or similar venue to stimulate a spiritual awareness or renewal experience. Prior retreat participation is not a requirement to begin courses; however, retreat participation is strongly encouraged and creates an ideal transition to beginning the classes.

*Building Modules*

The Building Stage consists of four Modules: Adoration, Community, Theology and Service. Encompassing a combination of the Analyze, Design, Develop, Implement, and Evaluate process and the Understanding by Design models, each Module contains several lessons, which are self-paced, and volunteer or peer facilitated in small group or individual instruction. All activities are bound with the thread of knowing, loving, and serving God through each person's baptism call to Christ's priestly, prophetic, and kingly office. For more information and samples of individual modules please contact Clair McCormick at [Clair@kolbeprisonministressa.org](mailto:Clair@kolbeprisonministressa.org)

➤ **That Man is You**

That Man is You! honestly addresses the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers. The program harmonizes current social and medical science with the teachings of the Church and the wisdom of the saints to develop the vision of man fully alive!

➤ **Fulton Sheen – Life is Worth Living**

The Fulton Sheen Apostolate is a great outreach program to help individuals.

grow into a deeper understanding of not only who they are but who Christ is in their life. It is Fulton Sheen's objective in this 50-lesson series to introduce you, through reason, to a deeper and deeper understanding of the meaning and purpose of life. This is a small group, video-based formation. For more information regarding this catechesis click [here](#).

➤ ***Dominican Lay Formation***

This formation is dedicated to prayer, study, community and proclamation of the Gospel for Catholic men and women. Once formation is completed over a period of years, the Southern Province Lay Dominicans are considered as satellite members of the local chapter until they are released from prison and then can apply for transfer to the chapter of their domicile.

➤ ***Benedictine Lay Formation***

➤ ***Catholic Inmate Facilitator Development (OCIA Facilitator Catechesis)***

This training was implemented in the TDCJ Connally Unit to provide another opportunity for catechized, confirmed Catholics to go deeper in their faith and respond to God's invitation to be a disciple for other brothers seeking the beauty and truth of the Catholic Church. He utilizes the Didache Series and is inmate/volunteer lead using this resource. All participants have completed the Sacraments of Initiation and are interested in being considered for a facilitator position of studies in the Catholic Community. The inmate has at minimum a bachelor's degree in theology and is also confirmed as a Roman Catholic. The series offers many studies and potentially provides up to 9 years of new theological Catholic content that includes scripture, Tradition, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

➤ ***Theological books***

Refer to the [Kolbeprisonministries.org/OngoingFormation/Inventory](http://Kolbeprisonministries.org/OngoingFormation/Inventory) for available resources.

➤ ***Other Resources***

Catholic Prison Ministry Coalition (CPMC – a USCCB initiative)

The [Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition \(CPMC\)](#) promotes ministry to all people affected by incarceration and detention. They offer recruiting, training, support, and empowerment for those called to this ministry. **Their mission: strive to create a more just and merciful criminal justice system that upholds the dignity of every human person and advances restorative justice.**

❖ ***Retreat Reunions***

Gatherings by former KPM retreatants, often called "reunions" are varied in their schedule, agendas, and availability. Depending on the restrictions within any given unit and the direction and availability of KPM volunteers, these reunions may be weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, periodic, one-time, or not offered at all. Attendance may be available to all former offender retreatants, limited to the retreatants from the most recent retreat, or some other restriction typically determined by the prison chaplain and warden.

At the present time, there are no required KPM "essentials" for retreat reunions like there are for KPM retreats. Reunions are usually scheduled within a month after a retreat.

*Activities:*

- Communion Service

- Brief testimonials by offenders (other than those who may have given a talk at the last retreat)
- Small group discussions
- Communal prayers (Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary, etc.)
- Religious-themed entertainment or informational videos
- Live music (especially the recent retreat theme song)
- Snacks (donuts work well), and more. Plastic bins or containers will be required to transport the donuts or whatever other snack items into the unit.

❖ **Renew Program**

Renew activities are similar to a reunion but Renew is scheduled weekly or monthly and open to all inmates who have attended a Kolbe retreat. Renew should not replace or compete with the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) Renew is a faith sharing opportunity allowing inmates to reconnect with other inmates who may be positive influences to help them continue their faith journey. Additional Renew activities can include reading and discussing the Sunday Gospel, praying the Rosary or Divine Mercy chaplet, Adoration, and breakout sessions for any inside team members preparing for an upcoming retreat. Refreshments are encouraged, but not necessary. This reunion is comprised of inside and outside volunteers.

- ❖ The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults, or OCIA, formerly RCIA, was promulgated by the Holy See, January 2024 and made effective by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, (USCCB), December 2024.
- ❖ About OCIA
- ❖ It should not be surprising that inquirers would surface behind bars, in a dark place where they have time to reflect on their past mistakes and desire a better, faith-filled future. When these movements lead a person who is incarcerated to seek a life in Christ, it is good for KPM volunteers to be ready to respond generously. KPM should provide the inquiring inmates with the fullness of the church's tradition and rituals. The truth is that mercy and dignity are at the core of our ministry to those who are incarcerated. The wellspring of holiness and grace opened by Christ's crucifixion, death, and resurrection is made available through the Church's Sacraments.
- ❖ The mandate of the Second Vatican Council to reform the rites of baptizing adults in the Catholic Church began in 1972. The entire text was retranslated in English and over the years a more pastoral and useful order evolved until the combined rite was achieved. The ritual and textual adaptations approved by the bishops of the United States were incorporated, and ten additional rites were added for use in this country." (Order for Christian Initiation, Study Edition)
- ❖ Opportunity

- ❖ Best practice – have a short-term class, study, or apologetics I level offering to those inmates who wish to continue their spiritual journey but may not be ready for the OCIA process.
- ❖ The most effective way to introduce the OCIA process in a prison unit is closely following a KPM retreat. The facilitators of the process may include qualified Roman Catholic inmates and outside volunteers. Check with your (arch) diocese prison ministry coordinator for specific requirements.
  
- ❖ KPM has received approval from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) and an endorsement from the Archdiocese of San Antonio for a Prison OCIA Course that is available on the KPM website. The course content and approval for other states and regions may require the pertinent KPM Core to check with their local diocese and corresponding department of corrections officials. There are additional options presented below that support the OCIA process.
  
- ❖ First Steps
- ❖ Provide all unit OCIA inmate facilitators/outside volunteers with a current copy of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, Study Edition.
- ❖ Implement any additional training required by the (arch)diocese for inside/outside facilitators.
- ❖ Establish administrative roles for collecting OCIA Catechumenate/Confirmandi Information Forms. (investigating and documenting with appropriate parish) Often this is done to assist inmates who do not freely have access to the necessary documents. Your (arch)diocese Director of Prison Ministry will be your primary resource. Attachment 1.
- ❖ Scheduling of Mass of Elect, Scrutinies, and Sacraments with clergy and bishop.
- ❖ Identify the primary study resources to support preparation.
  
- ❖ Curriculum support
- ❖ Best Practice – Review suggested offerings under OCIA Resources or check with local parish priest for his preferred curriculum to support the process.
- ❖ Supplemental resources for OCIA process
- ❖ Your parish OCIA Team as well as unit volunteers may be a useful resource for approved diocesan curriculums.
- ❖ Review
- ❖ The resource list (attached) includes curriculums that have been used inside the prison.
- ❖ Coordinate with the Prison Chaplain
- ❖ Time
- ❖ Availability of rooms
- ❖ Audio visual support
- ❖ Approval of materials you plan to use.
- ❖ How to identify inmate participants and allow attendance

- ❖ Seek a source of funding or resource donation. KPM is producing a Catholic Content providers list and notating any standard discount. Check with the Procurement committee to see what available resources can be provided free of charge. (Email: For our example course, the upfront cost, including videos, would be about \$1200 - \$1300 for 25 students; including 25 copies of all course books and lessons. This course includes copyright agreements for using excerpts of various popular videos in prison courses, so having an original copy of videos available in your parish library or utilized in parish courses would satisfy copyright agreements and decrease upfront cost dramatically; books and copies of course lessons can be recycled; also, check with diocesan criminal ministry for support. It's always worthwhile checking eBay and Amazon for used copies. Getting donors to provide in-kind (resources) donations would be another option.
  
- ❖ Recommended printed material and videos (for this sample course, purchase of original videos or having them in the parish library satisfies copyright agreements; excerpts from these videos have been compiled for each lesson and are available through the Kolbe website):
- ❖ Printed course material with Student and Leader readings and questions (available free online at kolbeprisonministries.com)
- ❖ Outlines of the Catholic Faith, The Leaflet Missal Company – one per leader and student (\$1 if bought in large bulk discounts)
- ❖ One per leader and one per student: EITHER:
- ❖ Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), Liguori Publications (\$5 -\$10) OR
- ❖ Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church (YOUCAT) with or without the above CCC (check used on eBay: \$3-\$5)
- ❖ Catholic Bible – one per leader and one per student (\$5-\$10, unless donated by diocese or others)
- ❖ The Lee Strobel 3-Disc Film Collection: The Case for Christ, The Case for Faith, The Case for a Creator (2009)
- ❖ The Catholicism series, Fr Robert Barron
- ❖ Credo, The Creed, The Faith of the Church
- ❖ The Catholic Mass...Revealed! Thy Kingdom Come
- ❖ Our Catholic Faith, Matthew Arnold, Augustine Institute
- ❖ The Bible and the Sacraments, St Paul Center
- ❖ Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained, Part 1: Knowing the Faith, and Part 2: Living the Faith; 5 DVDs in each part; 2 episodes on each DVD; 30 min each episode; The Augustine Institute
- ❖
- ❖ Structure:
  
- ❖ Form a Team (number and types of positions depend on number of class participants). The Volunteer Team Leader –
- ❖ Selects Volunteer class leaders who will lead individual lessons or trains Inmate Course Leader to lead classes.
- ❖ Trains Volunteer class leaders on lesson outlines
- ❖ Selects Inmate Course Leader
- ❖ May be trained to lead classes with Volunteer Team moving to an advisory position.

- ❖ Practicing Catholic
- ❖ RCIA educated.
- ❖ Preferably additional education such as Apologetics, advanced bible studies
- ❖ Works with Volunteer Team Leader to select course table leaders and inmate support team.
- ❖ Coordinates with Chaplain for course resource needs
- ❖ Inmate Support Team: See commitment form in Attachment 1 below along with suggested team members, including table facilitator for each 6-8 students to facilitate small groups; they should be practicing Catholics, RCIA educated; preferably had additional education such as Apologetics, advanced bible studies.

- ❖ Team Member Commitment: Each team member determines how to best support the Course and certifies that commitment by completing the Team Member Commitment Form (See RCIA Supplemental Guide - Attachment 1)

- ❖ Inviting Participants
- ❖ Check with Chaplain on procedure for inmates to request attendance at class.
- ❖ Ask inmates attending Catholic Service or other classes to talk up the course.
- ❖ Post information on inmate bulletin boards.

- ❖ Much more detailed information is provided in the OCIA Supplemental Guide.

#### ❖ V. Study Programs

- ❖ Bible Study or Scripture Study programs have been implemented in a number of incarceration facilities using different study programs, materials, and resources. The most notable of these study programs are described below.

#### ❖ The Adventure Bible Timeline Study

- ❖ Ascension Press, the publisher of “The Bible Timeline – The Story of Salvation” (TBT) donated over 9,000 thousand copies of the study set (book) and accompanying sets of DVDs to Kolbe Prison Ministries in 2021. The Bible Timeline study set was authored by Jeff Cavins. Ascension Press donated these materials to KPM with the proviso that the study sets, and DVD could only be used in incarceration facilities. The KPM Board can make these Bible Timeline study sets (books) and DVDs available to any and all Core Teams for Bible study classes in prisons.

- ❖ The TBT program involves 24 study sessions (typically weekly), each designed to last about 1 hour and 45 minutes. The basic session plan is:
  - ❖ 10-minute welcome and introduction
  - ❖ 40-minute group discussion
  - ❖ 50-minute video presentation (DVDs)
  - ❖ 5-minute closing and prayer
  
- ❖ Every offender participant receives their own copy of The Bible Timeline book for individual reading and study. Offender participants must sign their name on the front cover of their TBT book so that it may not be misidentified or misappropriated. Prior to each session, offender participants are invited to review the session materials in the TBT book, read the pertinent Scripture, and answer a series of questions for that session. The intent of answering the questions is to help the offender participants understand and think more deeply about what they have just read.
  
- ❖ One or more KPM volunteers will serve as program facilitators and should have a respectable understanding of the Catholic faith. It is not necessary for program facilitators to be Bible scholars but rather at least have a basic knowledge of the Bible and the willingness to prepare in advance for each program session. Facilitators should complete the Scripture reading and answer the session questions on their own before reading the responses (in the back of the TBT book) in preparation for facilitating the group discussions.
  
- ❖ Given the constraints and limitations of prison life, some adjustments may need to be made in the presentation of this TBT program. If only one hour is allotted for a group gathering, it may be necessary to split each program session in half; with the welcome/introduction and group discussion one day and the DVD presentation and closing/prayer during the subsequent group gathering. This approach would expand the entire study program to a year.
  - Additional studies from Ascension include Mathew, Acts,
  
- ❖ Word on Fire offers many additional studies (Pivotal Players Vol 1 and Vol 2, The Creed, The Mass, The Sacraments, Eucharist, Untold Blessing, Priest Prophet, King, David the King, Conversion, Mystery of God, and Catholicism). These video-based studies offer workbooks that can be issued to an inmate for self-paced individual study, as well. Check the KPM resources website for free available inventory.
- ❖ The Paulist Evangelization Ministry provides the following copies to KPM for use in prison ministry.

- ❖ To request any of this Catholic content for your prison unit, please have your Core Team officer and the unit volunteer sign the Goodwill Agreement, indicating that these resources will only be used in prisons and never offered at the parish level. [LINK](#)

- ❖ VI. Personal Development Programs

- ❖ Life Skills Program

- ❖ The Life Skills Program consists of several training sessions designed to meet the needs of inmates and consists of modules designed to enhance a variety of life skills. These include:

- ❖ Personal Value Clarification
      - ❖ Understanding Principles of Motivation
      - ❖ Anger, Conflict and Stress Management
      - ❖ Building Better Self Esteem
      - ❖ Communication Skills
      - ❖ Handling Change
      - ❖ Money and Credit Management
      - ❖ Active Parenting (pre- and post-release)
      - ❖ Healthy Living
      - ❖ Employability
      - ❖ Goal Setting

- ❖ Fulton Sheen Apostolate – Life is Worth Living

- ❖ VII. Catholic Leadership Development

- ❖ Catechesis Training and Certification

- ❖ The National Directory for Catechesis defines Catechesis as, “the act of handing on the Word of God intended to inform the faith community and candidates for initiation into the Church about the teachings of Christ, transmitted by the Apostles to the Church.” In becoming a certified catechist, offenders are afforded the opportunity to not only be a teacher of the faith but also to be a champion for transformation within the prison community. The most important goal for a catechist is to aid, teach, and guide others in their personal relationship with God. In addition, catechists must continually grow in their own knowledge so they can continue to be credible in teaching the Catholic faith.

- ❖ There are three levels of certification (Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3) which require increasingly more time and study. Unfortunately, the availability of Catechesis training and certification for offenders

is rare. There are few qualified catechism teachers that are willing and able to spend the substantial amount of time required for offender students to achieve certification. More effort and emphasis need to be made by and through KPM for Catechesis training and certification to become more widespread.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

### ADULT INQUIRER INFORMATION

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

TDCJ #: \_\_\_\_\_ TDCJ Unit/Dorm: \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy): \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Birth Cert \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth (City, County, State, Country): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Father (First, middle, last name): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Mother (First, middle/maiden name): \_\_\_\_\_

### RELIGIOUS HISTORY

What, if any, is your present religious affiliation? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been baptized? (circle one): Yes No If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church or Chapel: \_\_\_\_\_ Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Location (street, city, state): \_\_\_\_\_

Have you received your First Communion? (circle one): Yes No If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Name and location of Church: \_\_\_\_\_

### MARITAL STATUS

**Current Status** (circle as applicable): Married Single Engaged Separated Divorced Widowed

**If you are presently married:**

Is this your first marriage? (circle one): Yes No

Was your spouse married previously? (circle one): Yes No

Spouse's First / Maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Baptized? \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of ceremony (circle one): Church Civil Other: \_\_\_\_\_

If married in a church, name, address & denomination: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you are divorced:**

Former Spouse's First, Middle, Maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_

Was your marriage was performed in a church ceremony? (circle one): Yes No

If so, was it annulled? (circle one): Yes No

Date and location of prior marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of divorce and County/State where divorce decree filed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Contact Information** (circle one): Spouse Parent Relative Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (first and last): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing or Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any specific concerns or questions you have about the Catholic Church or the RCIA program:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**For Office Use Only:**

Catechumen/Candidate/Catholic

Sacraments to receive: Baptism \_\_\_\_\_ Holy Eucharist \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmation \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor (First, Middle, Last): \_\_\_\_\_

Documents Needed: Birth Certificate \_\_\_\_\_ Baptismal Verification \_\_\_\_\_ Marriage Verification \_\_\_\_\_

If divorced, Divorce Verification \_\_\_\_\_ Annulment \_\_\_\_\_ Other (e.g., *Lack of Form*) \_\_\_\_\_

If our assistance with documents, which one(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

**Interview Notes:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_