

Kolbe Prison Ministries comes to diocese

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Kolbe Prison Ministries (KPM) is an organization whose sole purpose is to bring a sense of unity with Jesus Christ and His Church to those who are incarcerated throughout the United States. The ministry began in the Hill Country of Texas and held its first prison retreat in August 2009.

Since then, KPM has expanded and now offers retreats in Louisiana, Florida, Oklahoma, and Kansas. It is currently working with dioceses in several other states to bring the retreats to more facilities across the country.

The KPM retreat is modeled after well-known parish retreats such as ACTS and CRHP (Christ Renews His Parish). Its mission is: "To share the agape love of Jesus Christ with those in prison and to teach the fullness of the truth of the Catholic Church to the incarcerated."

From July 10–12, 2025, a group of men from Texas,

Louisiana, and all three dioceses in Kansas came together to hold the first KPM retreat in the Diocese of Salina. The retreat took place at the Ellsworth Correctional Facility (ECF) in Ellsworth, Kansas. The retreat team consisted of approximately 32 men—some who entered the facility to lead the retreat, and others who worked behind the scenes in prayer, fundraising, and outreach to parish communities.

Fr. Kyle Berens, pastor and chaplain at ECF, served as the spiritual director for the retreat. Fr. Joshua Werth, pastor and chaplain at the Norton Correctional Facility, also played a key role in helping bring KPM to the Salina Diocese. Much gratitude is owed to the ECF chaplains and staff who helped coordinate the retreat—from organizing schedules and logistics, to setting up and cleaning up each day, preparing and serving meals, providing snacks, drinks, audio/visual support, and much more. Their efforts were essential for the weekend's success.

The retreat itself was an experience of Christ's love. Through the personal witness of the team members and the grace of the Sacraments—Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, and Reconciliation—God's constant forgiveness and healing were shared with the men in a tangible and heartfelt way. It was evident, even from the first day, that the Holy Spirit was working in the hearts and minds of the retreatants. You could see it in their faces, hear it in their voices, and witness it in their testimonies by the final day.

One of the most moving aspects of the retreat was Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, offered each day. A room was set aside for Adoration, and the men were invited to sign up for 30-minute or one-hour slots—or simply stop in to sit with Christ. For many, this was the first time they had experienced Adoration, and many spoke of the deep peace they felt simply being with the Lord.

The retreat concluded Saturday afternoon with a



COURTESY PHOTO, LONG THIÊN

Kolbe Prison Ministries hosted a retreat for inmates in the Salina Diocese at the Ellsworth Correctional Facility.

reflection on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We are called to serve Him by serving one another. Many of the men shared a renewed understanding of what it means to be Christian, and made new commitments to their faith. Already, the fruits of the retreat are visible: attendance at Monday evening Bible study has doubled, and participation in OCIA on Thursday evenings after Mass has also increased.

These retreats don't only change the lives of the men

who attend—they also transform the hearts of the volunteers who serve. If you feel called to be a part of this ministry, KPM is currently in the early planning stages for a retreat at the Norton Correctional Facility. Please consider joining us in the future as more information becomes available.

"For I was in prison and you visited me... Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."
— Matthew 25:35–40