

A Novena for
Catholic Prison Ministries
— COALITION —



Prayers for CPMC Leadership
&
for Ministers and Volunteers

About the Novena

A novena refers to nine days of prayer with a special intention. This prayer practice encourages us to share our hearts with God, be consistent in our spirituality, and to be open to his plan for us. Novenas are a beautiful way to grow purposeful, consistent, and persistent in daily prayer.

In praying a novena, we can share in a long-standing prayer tradition, going back to the time of the first Pentecost, when Mary and the apostles waited and prayed for nine days.

How to Pray this Novena

1. Find a dedicated time and place each day to pray the novena.
2. Reflect upon this novena's special intention - praying for all volunteers and ministers who accompany people affected by incarceration and detention, and for the leadership of CPMC.
3. Recite and reflect upon the daily prayers of the novena below.
4. Repeat for the nine consecutive days of prayer.

DAY 1

PRAYER FOR VISION IN MINISTRY

Creator of the Beloved Community, in baptism you anointed each of us as priest, prophet, and king. We are grateful for the call placed in each of our hearts, born from that anointing, in service to revealing the beloved community. We ask for your loving guidance in discerning this call. Grant us the wisdom of your vision, to see the face of your son in our sisters and brothers affected by incarceration and detention. Still us with humility as we endeavor to accompany them and each other in pursuit of the Gospel.

God, we thank you for the ministers currently serving and the creation and growth of Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition. We ask you to pour out your Spirit, calling forth a leader to boldly reflect your vision in the work of CPMC. Stir us to reflect on your will for us and for those we know who carry the gift of leadership.

Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

DAY 2

PRAYER FOR NEW BEGINNINGS IN MINISTRY

God of New Beginnings, we thank you for the gift of this ministry. We are grateful for the privilege to accompany our sisters and brothers impacted by the wide-ranging effects of incarceration and detention. As we reflect on our own experiences of first responding to your call, we seek to partner with you in calling forth new ministers. Encourage in them the boldness of, “Yes,” as you did with Mary, our mother in Christ. Similarly, open our ears and hearts to hear your call to new beginnings in our ministry, responding to the needs of those we accompany. May we each carry with us the joy of the Gospel message.

God, we ask that you stir the hearts of ministers and leaders who mirror Christ’s love and joy for the marginalized. In particular, encourage within us reflection on the call to lead the Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition as it grows in service to your people.

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DAY 3

PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE IN MINISTRY

God of Constancy, we thank you for your continued presence with us. We are grateful for the many times in our work where we have been stretched and grown. Your steadfast witness of compassion grounds the ministry we endeavor to participate in. Help us to remember the necessity of tending to the interior. When we are stretched more than we think we can handle, welcome us to our “inner room, [to] close the door, and [to] pray.” Fill our hearts with your grace and remind us of your face in those we serve.

God, stretch us as we discern where it is you are calling us to grow. Guide the Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition as we call forth a leader to grow this Gospel-centered ministry.

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DAY 4

PRAYER FOR COMPANIONSHIP IN MINISTRY

God of Empathy, we thank you for this community of ministers working to be of service. We are grateful for the experience of the ministers who came before us and those around us now. Open us to the wisdom and companionship of a mentor or confidant who, like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, reveals the presence of Christ in the breaking open of our ministry. We know this work cannot be done alone but the grace of a trusted relationship reflects your voice back to us.

God, grant us the words to speak to each other with candor and grace. So too move us to speak with love and encouragement to those who possess the gifts of ministry and direction to lead the Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition.

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DAY 5

PRAYER FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING IN MINISTRY

God of Wholeness, we thank you for gathering together a people inspired by your spirit to “visit you in prison” (MT 25:39). We are grateful for the ability to partner with you in this ministry and Jesus' example to seek You as the true source of well-being. Help us to know when we, or our fellow ministers, are in need of rest, reflection, and healing. Restore us to wholeness with your touch and inspire in us a practice of holy patience so that we may continue this important ministry and trust in your will.

God, we offer our ministry to you knowing that you alone will bring it to completeness. We ask you to call forth in the hearts of our community members a leader to direct and balance the Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition.

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DAY 6

PRAYER FOR GROWTH IN MINISTRY

God of Transformation, you call us to read the signs of the times, responding with renewal and imagination to the needs of those we serve. We are grateful for your spirit's guidance and the zeal to adapt and grow in our vocation as ministers. Keep us mindful of our responsibility of care and companionship toward our sisters and brothers behind the walls, in reentry, and all those impacted by incarceration and detention. With appreciation, we call to mind now a moment of growth or a person who called us toward growth.

God, help us to gracefully lean into moments and relationships that encourage us to grow in our ministry. With that same grace, encourage the right person to lean into your call to lead the Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition.

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Amen.

DAY 7

PRAYER FOR RESILIENCE IN MINISTRY

God of New Life, we thank you for the fruits of our ministry, even when those fruits are not known to us. We are grateful for the gift of resilience when faced with difficult circumstances. We know that by following your call the work of our ministry will bear fruit in the fullness of time. Continue to walk with us in the search for balance and steadiness when faced with adversity. We are mindful of this community's support and our other trusted relationships so we can lift each other up.

God, we ask for fortitude and compassion as we seek to serve our sisters and brothers - both ministers and those we accompany. Bestow the grace of fortitude on the heart of a minister whose call it is to lead the Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition.

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DAY 8

PRAYER FOR HUMILITY IN MINISTRY

God of Vulnerability, through the example of your son you showed us what it means to be humble and affected by others. We are grateful for the part you have called us to in the larger vision of bringing an experience of your loving presence to all. Protect us from pride born of experience or station, and aid us in continually adopting a posture of accompaniment and presence. Keep us vulnerable to your face reflected in the face of the “other,” inspiring us to ask, “How can I serve you?”

God, remove the scales from our eyes and soften our hearts with humility so we can encounter you anew in those we minister to in your name. Make vulnerable and fertile the heart of a ministry leader to direct and serve the Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition.

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DAY 9

PRAYER FOR COMMUNITY IN MINISTRY

God of Communion, you brought to yourself a community of disciples to go forth and share your salvific message of love, mercy, and forgiveness with all. We are grateful for a community of support founded on the Gospel message. We call to mind our families, fellow ministers, friends, those we have ministered to, and all others who have shaped our work. As you did with the prophets and Jesus, continue to reveal to us relationships that call us forth to new life and new ministry.

God, entrust us with the grace and vision to build community amongst fellow ministers and those we accompany. From this community of disciples, awaken in us a leader to serve and guide the Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition.

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Thank you for praying
with us.



Acknowledgement:
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