

To attend a GROW training or to host a panel discussion at your parish, contact the Prison and Jail Ministry Office:

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*“The most terrible poverty is loneliness and the feeling of being unloved.”
St. Teresa of Calcutta*

**Diocese of Grand Rapids
Prison and Jail Ministry
360 Division Ave. S.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
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GROW



Guiding Returning
Citizens to Our World



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Prison and Jail Ministry

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Why Welcome All? Panel Discussion

Training

GROW is an outreach ministry of the Diocese of Grand Rapids for people returning from incarceration. GROW helps break the cycle of recidivism by educating parish communities on the spiritual needs and concerns of returning citizens and their families. GROW helps create welcoming faith communities through building awareness and relationships.

Learn why hospitality and spiritual programming are essential to civil and Christian living by hosting this re-entry panel discussion. Panelists will include a returned citizen, a Grand Rapids Police Officer and a Michigan Department of Corrections Offenders Success Coordinator. Contact the Prison & Jail Ministry office to learn more at 616-475-1255.

"All of us have something we need to be cleansed of, or purified from. May the knowledge of that fact inspire us to live in solidarity, to support one another and seek the best for others."

Pope Francis

*Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility, Philadelphia, PA.
Sept. 27, 2015*

Consider this:

- 95 percent of offenders will be released. How do we as a Catholic Church continue to journey with them as they re-enter society?
- Studies show those who are connected to a faith community are far less likely to return to prison.

Are you an active member of your parish community willing to welcome and guide a returning citizen? Are you able to accompany them to Mass and introduce them to your pastor and parish staff? Attend a GROW training to learn about:

- Information on confidentiality
- Unique spiritual needs of returning citizens
- How to properly welcome those returning from incarceration and their families
- How to maintain a Christian friendship with appropriate boundaries

**Are you a returned citizen looking for a welcoming faith community?
Please contact us today!
616.475.1255**