



Catholic Diocese of Columbus



Dear Ministry Partner,

Thank you for your interest in LEAF (Listening, Encouraging, and Assisting Families of the Incarcerated). The overarching mission of LEAF is to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ in the form of comfort, support, assistance and community to all family and loved ones of incarcerated persons, irrespective of individual faith affiliation. It is our hope that our faith community will reach out in the boundless spirit of invitation and welcoming, and gather those in need around a table of faith, love, compassion, and support. Below are steps in bringing the LEAF ministry to your parish:

1. **Obtain pastor's approval:** Set up a time to meet with your pastor and discuss LEAF. Provide information about the ministry and your passion and willingness to serve.
2. **Be paired with a diocesan LEAF representative:** Once approved to start a LEAF group, contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns (*614-241-2540 or socmail-box@columbuscatholic.org*) to be linked with a diocesan LEAF representative. Your representative will assist you in getting your LEAF ministry started.
3. **Identify & train facilitators:** Identify group facilitator(s) who have a loved one who is incarcerated, has been incarcerated themselves, or has experience in prison ministry or facilitating support groups. Have all facilitators trained by your diocesan LEAF representative.
4. **Determine date, time & secure a meeting space:** Plan when your group will start meeting and secure a comfortable and confidential space.
5. **Promote ministry:** Use provided flyers and bulletin inserts to start letting others know about LEAF.
6. **Gather resources:** Gather prayer cards, pamphlets, books, and other resources that may be of assistance to those in your group. Your diocesan LEAF representative can help with this.
7. **Begin!**

Thank you again for your willingness to serve in this way. We look forward to working with you to share the love of Christ with our brothers and sisters!

Sincerely,

Diocese of Columbus LEAF Ministry Team