

TWIN CITIES PRISON MINISTRY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

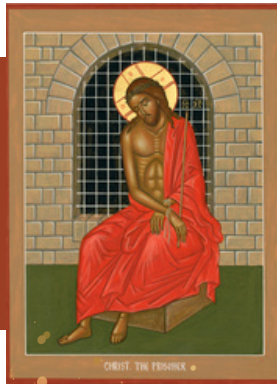


This month, pray for
all fathers in prison.

June 2024

tcpm.prayers@gmail.com

"I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." Matthew 25:36



From Father Stan Sledz...



Greetings my Sisters and Brothers,

It's June already, and we are now in "Ordinary Time." This Ordinary Time includes the feast days of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 7 and the Immaculate Heart of Mary on June 8. FATHER'S DAY comes on the 16th and JUNETEENTH on the 19th. Juneteenth is the final announcement of the freedom from slavery in Texas. And don't forget about PRIDE MONTH during the entirety of June!

That's a lot to celebrate and remember and be thankful for!



AMEN, AMEN, and Blessings to ALL OF US, Daughters and Sons of God our Creator and Savior and Source of Grace and Holiness!

Fr. Stan

Lord, we pray that inmates seek out other believers to join in community with. We pray that they are able to find the resources they need to read and learn from the Bible. We lift up their need to be able to grow and become strong disciples of Christ, allowing Him to guide them and order their steps. Amen.

Our society seems to prefer punishment to rehabilitation and retribution to restoration, thereby indicating a failure to recognize prisoners as human beings.

U.S. CATHOLIC BISHOPS: RESPONSIBILITY, REHABILITATION, AND RESTORATION (2000)

GOD LISTENS INTENTLY TO THE PRAYERS OF THE SUFFERING, AND THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT PRISONERS SUFFER IMMENSELY.

Lord, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

These are the prayer requests from insiders. Let us pray for...

- Nancy in the hospital.
- recovery from addiction for my son.
- my Mom with cancer.
- my son staying sober.
- children finding the Lord.
- all my nieces and nephews.
- help for sleep deprivation.
- that my 3-year-old niece recovers.
- that my son, Eric, stops hitting the booze.
- blessings for our families and for our children.
- Bridget's dad, who is recovering from surgery.
- that my appeal in Wisconsin comes out favorably.
- Mike, my dad, that he gets better from throat cancer.
- that the judge rules favorably with the women that have appeals.
- Lucas, that he gets healing for mental issues and self-centeredness.
- Sarah's son, that he will start talking to God and having a relationship with Goddess.
- for Nestor, a relative of a resident who recently passed away
- for Garcia, a resident at the facility who passed away. Through the mercy of God, grant eternal rest to their souls and may perpetual light shine upon them.
- for a resident's brother & sister who are quarreling over possessions left by a loved one. May they find forgiveness, kindness, generosity and peace.
- for a resident's brother for protection from the evil one and the wisdom, courage and grace to make good choices.
- for all Residents due for release - may they be blessed with support, healing, healthy relationships and the grace to make it back to be positive members of family and community.
- my nephews, nieces, brothers, and future husband.
- Mike's radiation treatments.
- school graduation from Cisco college
- my daughter's health.
- colon cancer recovery.

**IN MINNESOTA,
OVER 8,000 ADULTS
ARE IN PRISON.
THERE ARE 57
MINORS IN JUVENILE
FACILITIES.**



Confining young people between the ages of 10 and 17 by cutting them off from their families, disrupting their education, and often exposing them to further trauma and violence, harms their development and has lifelong negative consequences.

Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future.

TWIN CITIES PRISON MINISTRY
presents a
**PRISON MINISTRY
WORKSHOP**

**ALL ARE WELCOME
SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024
MASS AT 10 A.M., LUNCH AND
PROGRAM TO FOLLOW**



Church of Saint Peter Claver
369 Oxford Street North, St. Paul MN 55104

Read more in the flyer that accompanies this newsletter, or click [HERE](#) to register for this free event.

Father's Day IN PRISON

Father's Day is stereotypically a happy occasion, but an increasing number of fathers will spend the day away from their loved ones, separated by prison walls. This holiday is a reminder that incarceration affects entire families, not just the people behind bars. Below, dads in prison share their feelings of pain, remorse and hope.

1 It's hard being separated. My wife has been awesome, bringing my daughter to see me every other weekend when possible. We talk on the phone often, and I keep a daily journal for my daughter. Every day I write a short little note to her, talking about my day, and what I know about hers. When a notebook is full, I mail it home and my wife saves them all together to give to her someday. I want her to always know how much I love and miss her, and that I think of her EVERY day.

2 Out of 17 years, I have seen my children twice. I missed everything with them, and I talk to my children for 15 minutes a month on the phone if money allows. I envy the other dads in the prison that actually see their children on Father's Day. What am I? A father or just a male figure locked up behind bars? I really hope my sons know I love them so much! I am so proud of my children who are growing up without a father in their presence.

3 Children have to pay for their father's mistakes. The parent-child bonds are shattered in an excruciatingly slow manner. No matter how many letters you write or how often you call, how much can you say to your child in 10 minutes (if you have the money to pay for the call?) They have just begun to tell you about their day, their accomplishments and wishes and dreams and needs, when you have to go because the phone will cut off. The prison system does much to discourage visits, from counselors not approving the visit list to searching little kids and traumatizing them so they are afraid of a uniform. The price our children pay is unfair, and it's a cost no one can imagine.

huffpost.com



"No man can possibly know what life means, what the world means, what anything means, until he has a child and loves it."

Please pray for the growing pool of mentors and mentees at Mission2911.

What do we do? Mission2911 supports healthy and successful reentry by providing mentorship, offering resources, and giving love and support to those returning from the bonds of incarceration. These men and women have GREAT potential and possess a unique set of skills and experiences. Together, we can create a brighter future for them when they come home! Everyone deserves another chance, regardless of past choices or circumstances.

We welcome financial support as we network with churches and ministry partners. Please visit us at mission2911.org.



enabling healthy reentry

What I Learned AS A PRISON COUNSELOR

primermagazine.com



It's Not Always About Being Bad. Sometimes It's About Being Foolish.

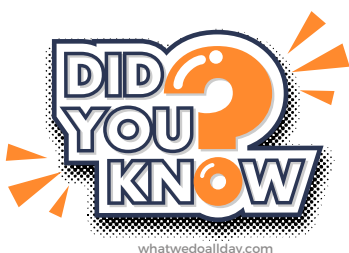
What image pops into your head when you hear the word "criminal?" Some hypnotic, cannibalistic serial killer? A hardened wiseguy pulled right out of *Goodfellas*? A muscle-bound thug with almost as many tattoos as a SoundCloud rapper? These aren't the people I met inside prison.

I met "Bill," a soft-spoken sweetheart who lacked the skills to de-escalate a conflict and wound up getting into a drunken brawl that ended in manslaughter. I met "Xavier," a former welder who let road rage get the better of him – chucking his Big Gulp at another car (realizing too late it was a cop). I worked with "Melissa," a gray-haired grandmother-of-three who got pressured into committing massive fraud by her manipulative boyfriend (he, of course, flipped on her in a plea deal). And yes, I did work with a few honest-to-God genuine predators. They do exist. They're just in the tiny minority.

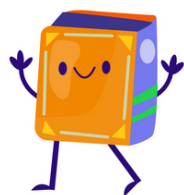
Here's the truth: Plenty of offenders didn't wake up one morning deciding today was a good day for crimes. That's not meant to excuse anything, but it is meant to explain it. A lot of people – even many repeat offenders – wound up on the wrong side of the bars not because of some sinister plot, but because of one (or even a dozen) little lapses in judgment, compromises of character, and moments of all-too-human weakness. They were regular people who, when put in a high-pressure situation, made the wrong call.

Why should you care? It might sound like an odd distinction, but it makes all the difference in the world – especially if you're going to learn from it. As easy as it might be to look down your nose at people with records, the frightening truth is that nobody's immune. You can be intelligent, kind, and decent and still panic or cave to pressure. No one's incapable of causing some serious damage. No one's above making some truly terrible errors. It might not land you on the inside, but the line between being your own person or being chained to some mistake is a lot thinner than most people would like to think.

THERE ARE CHILDREN'S BOOKS THAT ADDRESS INCARCERATION



The United States has the highest incarceration rate of any developed nation. That means millions of children have been touched by it, and every one of those children deserves to see themselves in books. Share these titles and help nurture some very compassionate and socially aware children!



PICTURE BOOKS:

Mango Moon by Diane de Anda
Visiting Day by Jacqueline Woodson
Knock Knock, My Dad's Dream for Me by Daniel Beaty
Mama's Nightingale by Edwidge Danticat

BOOKS FOR AGE 9 AND UP:

From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks
Santiago's Road Home by Alexandra Diaz
Land of the Cranes by Aida Salazar
Bringing Me Back by Beth Vrabel
All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook by Leslie Connor

CHECK THEM OUT!