

# TWIN CITIES PRISON MINISTRY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2024

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*May 5 is the National Day of Prayer*



## From Father Stan Sledz...

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It's May already and the weather is starting to cooperate and "prove" that it's spring! For me, May reminds me of flowers, mothers, and Mary, the Mother of Jesus!

I look out the window and pray about three times a day. I see the leaves developing on the trees. Also, on one tree, what started out brown is growing and turning green! I also saw a gorgeous red flower about the size of a softball growing very close to the ground. I didn't have my phone for a photo and couldn't come back for two days, and then I couldn't find it!

Blessings to all mothers! I know relationships may not always good, but they ALL need prayer. And so do we! It's not easy at all for nine months and can be difficult after that through all our growing stages (and theirs,) so let's keep praying in gratitude, and petition for the grace and blessings that are needed.

And to Mary, the Mother of our Savior, Jesus.... we need to pray and be reminded to pray - for her prayers! And that's our belief, that she will pray with us and for us.

I've heard from others that they think we consider her to be like God, but that's never been true. She is our Mother who loves us and wants God to bless us. She wants this even more than we do or can imagine! We pray, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. AMEN!"

May you have a Blessed May! With Love and daily prayer,  
Fr. Stan 😊



## SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE INCARCERATED

Pen Pals, tell your pals about the following publications that will provide free subscriptions.

The requests must come directly from those inside the walls.

### Catholic Answers Magazine

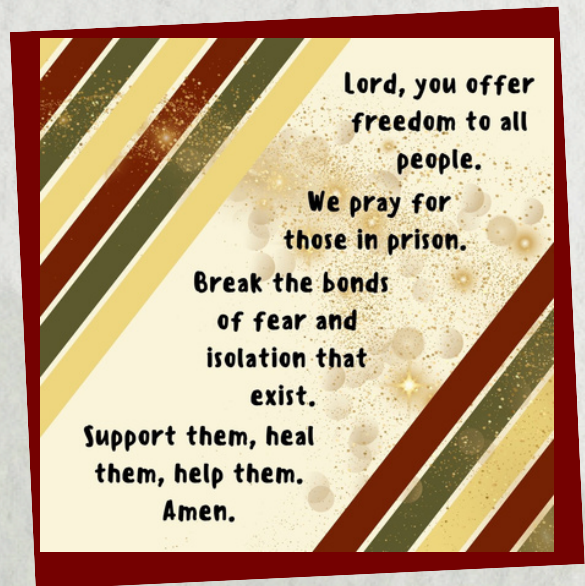
P.O. Box 199000, San Diego, CA 92159-9000

Give Us This Day, P.O. Box 37773 Boone, IA 50037-0773

Our Daily Bread, P.O. Box 2222 Grand Rapids, MI 49501

Loaves and Fishes Magazine, Lighthouse Publishing, P.O. Box 332, Bedford, PA 15522

Lapham Quarterly, 116 E 16th St., Floor 8, New York, NY 10003-2158



## PRAYING FOR THE SALVATION OF INMATES

*We are passionate about making disciples in prisons. Pray that inmates are able to see their need for Christ and his free gift of salvation. Through this salvation, we hope to see inmates experience transformation in their lives through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

**"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**

## I LOVE THE LORD, WHO LISTENED TO MY VOICE IN SUPPLICATION, WHO TURNED AN EAR TO ME ON THE DAY I CALLED.

Below are the prayer requests from insiders. Let us pray...



- For Lazarus and his family. May he rest in peace and through his pain & suffering, heal his family.
- For Deacon Clarence.
- For my mother battling lung cancer.
- For my mother's kidney failure.
- For my mother's Asbestos poisoning.
- For my son who has a new job, and my other other son who has to appear at court.
- For my son going to boot camp.
- All the sufferings overseas involving people in the wars.
- For God's healing and comfort for a resident's mom - Michelle - recovering from back surgery.
- For the grace of strength, support and discernment to heal the causes for a resident's wife who is struggling with substance abuse on the outside.
- For the volunteers - the Lord's blessings to them and their families and God's grace of awareness and courage to follow the path that the Lord has laid out.
- For Benjamin, Angel, Robert, and Raymond.
- For the sick in our family.
- For resolution to conflicts in our family communication.
- For Grandpa going into a nursing facility.
- For my Grandfather who has cancer.
- For my sons who aren't getting along.
- For my court case and my appeal.

*Paragraph 2313 of our Catechism states that prisoners must be respected and treated humanely. Actions deliberately contrary to the law of nations and to its universal principles are crimes, as are the orders that command such actions.*

### MARK 2:17

Jesus heard this and said to them, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."



## FACTS ABOUT PALLIATIVE CARE IN THE UNITED STATES PRISON SYSTEM

- According to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, only 75 prisons and jails in a total of 41 states have a form of hospice program available to dying patients. There are 4,780 prisons and jails in the U.S., so these programs exist in less than 2% of all U.S. prisons and jails.
- In many places, inmates who want to go into hospice care have to sign a do-not-resuscitate order first. Yet multiple studies have connected the presence of DNR orders to poorer medical care and negative health outcomes.
- Prisons weren't designed for elders. They require prisoners to climb into bunks and haul themselves up stairs or across long distances. The physical discipline of prison, meant to rehabilitate the weak, evil, or selfish mind of a criminal, is a questionable approach to reform, at best. For an elderly population, it can look like abuse.
- Lack of proper mental and physical health care and abnormally high levels of stress and anxiety can make a fifty-year-old prisoner's body seem 10 to 15 years older. Inmates 55 and older - considered elderly for health care management purposes because a person's life span is shorter inside prison - make up almost one-third of the prison population.



FreedomWorks is always in need of mentors that can walk alongside our program participants. We help former offenders return to society and reconcile to God, family, and community. We provide guidance and structure to men who are trusting Jesus and comprehensive, life-long aftercare to transform them into courageous peacemakers, upstanding citizens, and loving dads.

FreedomWorks graduates have a recidivism rate under 8% and for every ex-felon we keep clean and sober, we're saving the state of Minnesota \$37,500.

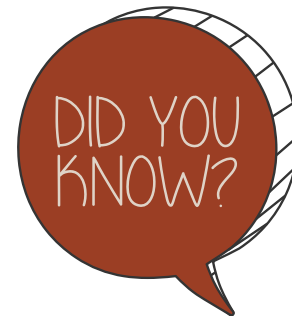
We offer:

Sponsored Treatment Lodging: We partner with various outpatient treatment providers, one of which offers services on our campus.

Board & Lodging Support: Participants will need to attend to a program structure and be working towards independent living.

Self-pay Sober Living: This opportunity is for working men who desire to be involved within the FreedomWorks community, but are not necessarily suited for our other options.

Read more at [myfreedomworks.com](http://myfreedomworks.com) or call 612-522-9007.



67% of people in Minnesota jails have not been convicted of a crime, meaning they're legally innocent.

Many of these people are jailed pretrial simply because they can't afford bail, while others remain in detention without a conviction because a state or federal government agency has placed a "hold" on their release. Research shows that people detained prior to trial are more likely to plead guilty, be convicted, be sentenced to jail, have longer sentences if incarcerated, and be arrested again.



- 80% of the women who will go to jail this year are mothers, including 55,000 women who are pregnant when they are admitted.
- Women who are pregnant when they are locked up have to contend with a healthcare system that frequently neglects and abuses patients. Many states fail to meet even basic standards of care for expectant mothers, like providing screening and treatment for high-risk pregnancies.
- More than 60 percent of women in state prisons have a child under the age of 18.
- When mothers are behind bars, their children are more likely to go into foster care.
- Incarceration during pregnancy has been found to be associated with reductions in maternal and newborn health, including higher rates of preterm and low birthweight in infants.

**PAROLE  
IS  
BROKEN**



*The incarcerated work hard to earn their release from prison, and parole officers should do everything possible to support their reentry, rather than sending them back. But 91% of those who are returned to prison go back for noncriminal "technical" violations, like missing a substance abuse meeting.*