

CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY FOR THE INCARCERATED FROM THE ORDER OF MALTA, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION



THURSDAY JUNE 24, 2010 Solemnity of the Birth of St. John The Baptist

A Message from Prison Chaplain Father George T. Williams, SJ Our Lord was no stranger to prison life

It is one of the great ironies of our time that so many people who call themselves Christians in the U.S. support the greatest mass incarceration in history. Many of these same Christians also support the death penalty.

Curious isn't it, given that the Savior of the World was himself both a prisoner and was executed by the state? So were most of His early followers: John the Baptist, beheaded in prison in the Holy Land by Herod; Saint Paul, beheaded in prison in Rome; and Saint Peter, crucified in Rome. Before Paul found Christ, he was busy acting as a kind of District Attorney, arresting and imprisoning the first members of the Christian Church. Then known as Saul, he even stood as an approving witness to at least one execution – that of St. Stephen (Acts 7).

So for those in prison, lonely though you may be, you are in very good company. Jesus and many of the earliest saints of the Church were arrested, charged with crimes, sat in a cell, wore shackles and were looked upon as 'criminals' by the powerful people of their time. Mary too shares a common prison experience, for just as she is the Mother of God, she is also the mother of a prisoner.

In this edition of the Serving Brother we celebrate the life, the witness, and the death of John the Baptist. He was not afraid to speak the truth to those in power, and we can draw inspiration from him to speak out when we witness injustice around us. (Matt 3:1-12) His message was simple: "Repent!" To repent means to decide to change. Are you ready to make changes in your life to make room for God?

John the Baptist was in prison for some time before he was executed at King Herod's order. (Mark 6:14-29.) Imagine how it was for him, sitting in a miserable, filthy cell day after day, not knowing what the future held for him. He may have sensed that he was doomed to death; we don't know, but you certainly can imagine what his daily routine must have been like – perhaps not unlike yours.

It's important for us to remember that the early Christians who handed down to us the Church we love today were no strangers to arrest, conviction, jail cells, and death row. They willingly went to prison, and many to their deaths by execution. Their witness (the word *martyr* means 'witness' in Greek,) to the truth of the Gospel made it possible for us today to know God's love and mercy as Catholics. We can pray in prison today because they went to prison for their faith.

God loves you so much that he chose to go through the same things you are going through in jail or prison, even to the point of being on death row.



SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

> His Most Eminent Highness Fra' Matthew Festing The Prince & Grand Master Magistral Palace, Rome, Italy

Mr. Joseph H. Miller, KM President, American Association New York, NY

His Excellency Fra' John T. Dunlap, KJ Mr. Richard D. Armstrong, Jr., Esq., KJ Mr. Augustus J. Grace, KJ Knights of Justice His Excellency Timothy M. Dolan

Grand Cross Conventual Chaplain & Principal Chaplain Dr. Robert J. Fredericks, KMOb

Director, National Prison Ministry Mr. Steven G. Caron, KM

Chairman, Editorial Board & Publisher **Fr. George T. Williams, SJ** Vice Chairman, Editorial Board; Editor & Deputy Chaplain for Prison Ministry

Address correspondence to:

Order of Malta Newsletter 43 Essex Street Andover, MA 01810



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI The Vatican METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOPS IN THE ASSOCIATION'S SERVICE AREA H.E. Robert J. Carlson Province of St. Louis (Established 1847) H.E. Dennis M. Schnurr Province of Cincinnati (Est. 1850) H.E. Timothy M. Dolan Province of New York (Est.1850) H.E. Sean P. Cardinal O'Malley, OFM Cap Province of Boston (Est. 1875) H.E. Jerome E. Listecki Province of Milwaukee (Est. 1875) H.E. Justin Cardinal Bigali Province of Philadelphia (Est. 1875) H.E. Francis Cardinal George, OMI Province of Chicago (Est. 1880) H.E. John C. Nienstedt Province of St. Paul and Minneapolis (1888) H.E. Jerome G. Hanus, OSB Province of Dubuque (Est. 1893) [vacant - new Archbishop to be named] Province of San Antonio (Est. 1926) H.E. Allen H. Vigneron Province of Detroit (Est. 1937) H.E. John J. Myers Province of Newark (Est. 1937) H.E. Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB Province of Indianapolis (Est. 1944) H.E. George J. Lucas Province of Omaha (Est. 1945) H.E. Joseph F. Naumann Province of Kansas City in Kansas (1952) H.E. Henry J. Mansell Province of Hartford (Est. 1953) H.E. Thomas G. Wenski Province of Miami (Est. 1968) H.E. Eusebius J. Beltran Province of Oklahoma City (Est. 1972) H.E. Daniel N. Cardinal DiNardo Province of Galveston-Houston (Est. 2004)

Letter from the Publisher

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have the honor of welcoming you as our guests and of sharing some thoughts on St. John the Baptist, the patron saint of the Order of Malta.

First, quoting Pope John Paul the Great from the ceremony at the Basilica of St. John Lateran where he formally took possession of his cathedral: "I greet you all! Even if I do not mention your names one by one, I intend nonetheless to greet each of you, calling you by your name!"

Second, a big "Thank You" to our loyal readers, our Serving Brothers and Sisters! In response to your prayers, letters and participation in our programs, our publication has expanded into twenty-five states. It is by just such effort that you can continue to build our Church around you.

Bringing you back to the Lateran Basilica, John Paul in his address recalled the moment when the Blessed Virgin greeted her cousin Elizabeth, who was well into her pregnancy as the mother of John the Baptist. "At this greeting 'the babe leaped in her womb' (Lk 1:41) and...from that moment John received the Savior's grace. And therefore John was the first to proclaim Him. John was also the first to wait for Him on the banks of the Jordan River. And it was John who, after baptizing Our Lord, showed Him to the people with the words: 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"(Jn 1:29).

John Paul went on: "This first confession of faith in Christ the Savior was...the key which closed the Old Covenant, a time of expectation, and opened the New Covenant, a time of fulfillment. This first fundamental confession of faith in the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, had already been heard by the future Apostles of Christ on the banks of the Jordan. It was probably heard also by Simon Peter. It helped him to proclaim later, at the beginning of the New Covenant: 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God' (Mt 16:16)

"In the framework of this marvelous meeting of the old and the new, I wish...to begin my ministry to the People of God...The essential content of this ministry is the commandment of charity: this commandment which makes us, men, friends of Christ: 'You are my friends if you do what I command you' (Jn 15:14). 'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love' (Jn 15:9).

"O dear Brothers and Sisters...Your new Bishop CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Mass readings for this summer

WEEK	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
June 21-27	2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18 Mt 7:1-5	2 Kgs 19:9b- 11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36 Mt 7:6, 12-14	2 Kgs 22:8-13 23:1-3 Mt 7:15-20	ls 49:1-6 Acts 13:22-26 Lk 1:57-66, 80		Lam 2:2, 10- 14, 18-19 Mt 8:5-17	1 Kgs 19:16b, 19-21 Gal 5:1, 13-18 Lk 9:51-6
June 28- July 4	Am 2:6-10, 13-16 Mt 8:18-22	Acts 12:1-11 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18 Mt 16:13-19	Am 5:14-15, 21-24 Mt 8:28-34	Am 7:10-17 Mt 9:1-8	Am 8:4-6, 9-12 Mt 9:9-13	Eph 2:19-22 Jn 20:24-29	ls 66:10-14c Gal 6:14-18 Lk 10:1-12, 17-20
July 5-11	Hos 2:16,17b- 18, 21-22 Mt 9:18-26	Hos 8:4-7, 11-13 Mt 9:32-38	Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12 Mt 10:1-7	Hos 11:1-4, 8c-9 Mt 10:7-15	Hos 14:2-10 Mt 10:16-23	ls 6:1-8 Mt 10:24-33	Dt 30:10-14 Col 1:15-20 Lk 10:25-37
July 12-18	ls 1:10-17 Mt 10:34-11:1	ls 7:1-9 Mt 11:20-24	ls 10:5-7, 13b-16 Mt 11:25-27	ls 26:7-9, 12, 16-19 Mt 11:28-30	ls 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8 Mt 12:1-8	Mi 2:1-5 Mt 12:14-21	Gn 18:1-10a Col 1:24-28 Lk 10:38-42
July 19-25	Mi 6:1-4, 6-8 Mt 12:38-42	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Mt 12:46-50	Jer 1:1, 4-10 Mt 13:1-9	Jer 2:1-3,7-8, 12-13 Jn 20:1-2, 11-18	Jer 3:14-17 Mt 13:18-23	Jer 7:1-11 Mt 13:24-30	Gn 18:20-32 Col 2:12-14 Lk 11:1-13
July 26 - August 1	Jer 13:1-11 Mt 13:31-35	Jer 14:17-22 Mt 13:36-43	Jer 15:10, 16-21 Mt 13:44-46	Jer 18:1-6 Jn 11:19-27	Jer 26:1-9 Mt 13:54-58	Jer 26:11-16, 24 Mt 14:1-12	Eccl 1:2, 2:21- 23 Col 3:1-5, 9-11 Lk 12:13-21
Aug 2-8	Jer 28:1-17 Mt 14:13-21	Jer 30:1-2, 12-15,18-22 Mt 14:22-36	Jer 31:1-7 Mt 15:21-28	Jer 31:31-34 Mt 16:13-23	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 2 Pt 1:16-19 Lk 9:28b-36	Hb 1:12—2:4 Mt 17:14-20	Wis 18:6-9 Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 Lk 12:32-48
Aug 9-15	Ez 1:2-5, 24- 28c Mt 17:22-27	2 Cor 9:6-10 Jn 12:24-26	Ez 9:1-7 10:18-22 Mt 18:15-20	Ez 12:1-12 Mt 18:21-19:1	Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 Mt 19:3-12	Ez 18:1-10, 13b, 30-32 Mt 19:13-15	Rv 11:19a 12:1-6a, 10ab 1 Cor 15:20-27 Lk 1:39-56
Aug 16-22	Ez 24:15-24 Mt 19:16-22	Ez 28:1-10 Mt 19:23-30	Ez 34:1-11 Mt 20:1-16	Ez 36:23-28 Mt 22:1-14	Ez 37:1-14 Mt 22:34-40	Ez 43:1-7b Mt 23:1-12	ls 66:18-21 Heb 12:5-7, 11-13 Lk 13:22-30
Aug 23-29	2 Th 1:1-5, 11-12 Mt 23:13-22	Rv 21:9b-14 Jn 1:45-51	2 Th 3:6-10, 16-18 Mt 23:27-32	1 Cor 1:1-9 Mt 24:42-51	1 Cor 1:17-25 Mt 25:1-13	1 Cor 1:26-31 Mt 25:14-30	Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29 Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a Lk 14:1, 7-14
Aug 30- Sept 5	1 Cor 2:1-5 Lk 4:16-30	1 Cor 2:10b-16 Lk 4:31-37	1 Cor 3:1-9 Lk 4:38-44	1 Cor 3:18-23 Lk 5:1-11	1 Cor 4:1-5 Lk 5:33-39	1 Cor 4:6b-15 Lk 6:1-5	Wis 9:13-18b Phlm 9-10,12-17 Lk 14:25-33

Prayer for Prisoners and Correction Officers

Most gracious Father, bless with your special care all penitentiaries and homes of refuge. Look with pity on those who are housed there. Guide and protect those who have returned to the world. Grant all of them true contrition for past sins, and strengthen them in their good resolutions. Lead them along from grace to grace so that by the help of the Holy Spirit they may persevere in the ways of obedience and humility, and in the struggle against evil thoughts and desires.

Grant the Holy Spirit to those engaged in teaching and training them, that they might have a right judgment with respect to those entrusted to them. May they labor for your love with deep humility and singleness of purpose, purity of heart and life, and true zeal for your glory and the salvation of souls. Give them faith and love to sustain them in disappointment, love and patience toward those under them, and in your own good time crown their work with an eternal recompense. Amen.

by St. Cyprian of Carthage (208-258 AD) Bishop, Martyr and Doctor of the Church

Prayer intentions in which you may share

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI recently offered the following prayer intentions:

- That the shameful and monstrous trafficking of human beings, which sadly involves millions of women and children, may be ended;
- That ordained ministers, religious women and men, and lay people involved in apostolic work may understand how to infuse missionary enthusiasm into the communities entrusted to their care;
- That every tendency to fundamentalism and extremism may be countered by constant respect, by tolerance and by dialogue among all believers;
- That Christians persecuted for the sake of the Gospel may persevere, sustained by the Holy Spirit, in faithfully witnessing to the love of God for the entire human race;
- That the world economy may be managed according to the principles of justice and equity, taking account of the real needs of peoples, especially the poorest.

In addition, on behalf of the People of God in the United States of America:

That Serving Brothers and Sisters -

- Will know the joy and peace that comes of authentically living our Catholic faith, finding real answers to the problems of daily life by their relationship with the living God and His Church;
- Will ever be open to the preaching of repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name, strive to model His teachings by the example of their own lives each day, and encourage the baptism and commitment to discipleship in the Church to those around them hungering for eternal salvation;
- Will never forget that if the God who raised Jesus from the dead is with us, what could we possibly have to fear?

Message of the Divine Mercy from Dr. Bryan Thatcher

What is your passion?

When I think of Saint John the Baptist, I think of a man on a mission, and a man of



passion. He had a mission to do, and no one was going to stop him. He accomplished his goal – to announce and prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. And for his accomplishments, he died a horrific death by behead-

ing at the hands of Herod.

We all need a passion in life, and Our Lord wants to instill in us a passionate love for Him. When a man is ruled by passion, he concentrates and focuses on it. Without a passion we come to nothing, and we live an aimless life and useless existence.

Imagine the man who wants to obtain a certain honorable and lofty position. He will work only for that; it does not matter whether it takes him ten weeks or ten years. "I'll get there," he says. He motivates and directs his life to everything that will help him achieve his goal, and he discards everything that may pull him away from it. "For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ..." (Titus 2:11-13).

And yet we must focus on God's mission for us, and pray for the zeal to be holy and upright people. We don't have the passionate love and burning and zeal in our hearts that we should!

Love Our Lord! Love Him with all the fervor and passion that you can. Devote your life and dedicate your thoughts and labors to Him, for Our Lord is the unchanging way to holiness.

Dr. Bryan Thatcher is the Director of the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy, 10016 Park Place Ave, Riverview, FL 33569 (877)380-0727 eadm@marian.org

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

wishes above all that we should remain in Christ's love, and that this love should always be stronger than our weaknesses. In the presence of this love, hatred, envy, all maliciousness and perversity disappear. Love constructs; only love constructs! Hatred destroys. Hatred does not construct anything. It can only disintegrate. It can disorganize social life, it can at the most bring pressure to bear on the weak, without, however, building up anything.

"For the whole of the Church and for the world, I desire love and justice, so that we may be able to construct. Each one has his place in this building up of the Body of Christ, just as each one has his place and his task in the building up of the common good of men, of society, of the nation, of humanity. The second second

SOVRANO MILITARE ORDINE DI MALTA

St. John the Baptist proclaimed his cousin Jesus as Savior, while still in the womb himself. Later John baptized Jesus in the Jordan, initiating Christ's earthly ministry. St. John is the patron saint of the Order of Malta, which frequently portrays him on their official postage, as seen above.

"I ask each of you to find and define his own place in this work of construction. I ask further of all you whom the voice of your new Bishop reaches: Go in spirit to the bank of the Jordan, where John the Baptist taught – John, who is the patron saint of this Basilica, the cathedral of Rome. Listen once more to

what he said, indicating the Christ: 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.'

"Behold, the Savior! Believe in Him with renewed faith, with faith as fervent as that of the first Roman Christians, who persevered here for three centuries of ordeals and persecutions. Believe with renewed faith... in Christ, the Savior of the world! *Amen*."

The Knights and Dames of Malta promise to do what we can to support you in our shared task of constructing a civilization that more fully reflects the love that Jesus continues to shower upon us. By focusing upon the Lamb of God, nothing can possibly destroy the good that we construct as we work in charity to build the church of Our Lord, Jesus Christ...in fidelity to that first call to us – in our own names, one by one – by John the Baptist from the shores of the Jordan River.

Jesus Lives,

Steven A / wion

Steven G. Caron, KM Publisher

Help us to help you.

Our goal is to make The Serving Brother a publication that truly meets <u>your</u> needs. Please send us your thoughts and ideas at:

> Order of Malta Newsletter 43 Essex Street Andover, MA 01810

SMOM Boston Area Chair Sue Downing and Director of National Prison Ministry Bob Fredericks are shown with dozens of letters from prisoners who joined in the SMOM's **Pilgrim-In-Spirit Program.**

Just after this photo was taken, the letters were deposited with other prayer petitions from around the world at the Grotto, where St. Bernadette experienced apparitions of the Blessed Virgin at Lourdes, France. Due to its popularity, The Serving Brother will offer you another opportunity to participate in the Pilgrim-In-Spirit Program during Lent of the coming year.



Who Understands Me But Me?

They turn the water off, so I live without water, they build walls higher, so I live without treetops, they paint the windows black, so I live without sunshine, they lock my cage, so I live without going anywhere, they take each last tear I have, I live without tears, they take my heart and rip it open, I live without heart, they take my life and crush it, so I live without a future, they say I am beastly and fiendish, so I have no friends, they stop up each hope, so I have no passage out of hell, they give me pain, so I live with pain, they give me hate, so I live with my hate, they have changed me, and I am not the same man, they give me no shower, so I live with my smell, they separate me from my brothers, so I live without brothers, who understands me when I say this is beautiful? who understands me when I say I have found other freedoms?

I cannot fly or make something appear in my hand, I cannot make the heavens open or the earth tremble, I can live with myself, and I am amazed at myself, my love, my beauty, I am taken by my failures, astounded by my fears, I am stubborn and childish. in the midst of this wreckage of life they incurred, I practice being myself, and I have found parts of myself never dreamed of by me, they were goaded out from under rocks in my heart when the walls were built higher, when the water was turned off and the windows painted black. I followed these signs like an old tracker and followed the tracks deep into myself followed the blood-spotted path, deeper into dangerous regions, and found so many parts of myself, who taught me water is not everything, and gave me new eyes to see through walls, and when they spoke, sunlight came out of their mouths, and I was laughing at me with them, we laughed like children and made pacts to always be loyal, who understands me when I say this is beautiful?

Give your brain a workout!

Sudoku Puzzle

9			8					
	5			9		4	2	
	2	8	4					5
					5	2	9	6
			9	8	6			
5	6	9	2					
3					4	5	8	
	7	5		2			3	
					9			2

Sudoku Directions – Fill each square with the numbers 1-9. No number can appear twice within the same row, the same column, or within the same frame of nine squares. ANSWERS ON BACK PAGE

During a recent school reunion, four men were discussing their starting salaries back in 1992. The salaries in question were 8, 10, 12 and 14 thousand dollars per year. Of course, the banker earned the most. Alan earned more than Brian, and the doctor earned more than Derek, the vet. Charles could not remember what he started on. Brian, the lawyer, did not start at \$10,000, nor did Derek. **Can you determine who has which job and their starting salaries?**

	Job	Salary
Alan		
Brian		
Charles		
Derek		

What is a Serving Brother?

The Order of Malta is one of the oldest institutions of Western and Christian civilization. During its early history as a military force, the Knights of Malta required the support of many helpers. One such group of helpers was known as "Serving Brothers." These men assisted the Knights when called to fight, and also served the Chaplains in tending to the sick. While not members of the Order, they fully shared in the values and lifestyle embraced by the Order.

As such, anyone may spiritually participate as a Serving Brother or Sister by actively participating in the life of the Roman Catholic Church. This can be achieved by activities such as regular attendance at Mass and worship services, keeping up with seasonal bible readings, saying the rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, studying our Faith and staying true to the admonitions of our Lord Jesus Christ, guided by the teachings of the Church.

An introduction to the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Malta (SMOM)

The SMOM is an international religious order recognized by a decree of Pope Pascal II in 1113. Led by the Knights of Justice who are professed Friars, its Grand Master holds the rank of Cardinal. Most of its 13,000 Knights and Dames are not under vows, but are devoted to developing their spirituality, serving the faith and caring for sick, poor and outcast souls. In 1783 Benjamin Franklin presented the *Libertas Americana* medal of the United States of America to the SMOM in thanks for crucial help it provided during the War of Independence.

How you can continue the work of John the Baptist

St John the Baptist was the first to proclaim Jesus as the Redeemer who would become our Savior. His faith had a huge impact in shaping our world. Pope John Paul the Great asked that we focus upon St. John's call to "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!" and then, to each define our own place in building up our Church and our world.

We ask that you consider this challenge, and then send us a letter describing how you think prisoners can make the biggest impact in positively building up their community, our society, our nation and our world. The best ideas will be shared with knights & dames and prison chaplains around the country, and briefly listed in the next quarterly edition of The Serving Brother. Participants will be recognized. Mail your letter to: Order of Malta Newsletter, 43 Essex Street, Andover, MA 01810

The Church Without Walls Program

Baptized Christians belong to a worldwide community of faith that has no boundaries on earth or in heaven. The SMOM's Jerosolimitan Nuns – whose monastery is located in Valletta, Malta across the Grand Harbor from **Fort Saint Angelo** – invite you to spiritually visit with them.

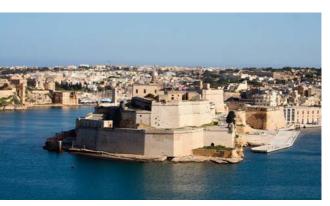
Each morning at 6AM (midnight in NYC) they listen to the Mass Readings (see page 3). They also

follow The Divine Office, praying at (NYC times) 1:45AM, 5:15AM; Grand Silence 7AM-8AM (each nun in her cell, no speaking); Rosary at 9:00AM; then prayer at 12:10PM and 2:30PM.

Please join them in prayer. If you miss the stated times, complete the Mass Readings as you can, knowing that the "Nuns of Malta" – and a growing group of Serving Sisters and Brothers – are praying for you.

Most of their prayers take place in the monastery's chapel in front of the Blessed Sacrament. On display in a niche of the monastery's church is the relic of Blessed Gerald, SMOM Founder. This treasure of the Order has been lovingly protected by the nuns since shortly after Napoleon Bonaparte occupied Malta in 1798 in his campaign to conquer Egypt. As the SMOM's Rule prohibited Knights from raising weapons against other Christians, they were forced off Malta by Napoleon's armed forces.

The Nuns have operated in Valletta since being formed by Grand Master Verdalle in 1582. As a cloistered contemplative community, they each freely choose to set themselves apart from the world. They leave the monastery only to visit family once a year, for medical needs and to vote. Their primary concern is working for the



greatest glory of God and for the salvation of souls, which motivates them to accept this new mission of spiritually visiting prisoners and those in solidarity with them.

You may also send your prayer requests to: The Mother Prioress, Jerosolimitan Nuns, Saint Ursula Monastery, Saint Ursula Street, Valletta VLT 1235, Malta EU 🔯

Puzzle solutions

	7	t	L	6	£	S	ι	8	9
	6	£	9	8	7	ι	5	L	t
	I	8	5	t	9	L	7	6	£
	ε	L	8	τ	4	7	6	9	5
	4	5	ι	9	8	6	L	£	7
	9	6	z	5	L	£	4	I	8
	5	9	6	£	I	4	8	7	L
	8	7	4	L	6	9	£	5	I
	L	I	£	7	5	8	9	7	6
Profession Salary Banker \$14,000 Lawyer \$12,000 Doctor \$10,000 Vet \$10,000 Vet \$10,000						səj. L	Nam Briar Briar Char Dere		

8