



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

The Serving Brother

SEPTEMBER 14, 2010

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF
THE HOLY CROSS

A Message from Professor Sean Innerst of the The Augustine Institute

Saint Augustine: A Hard Core Sinner, Redeemed

St. Augustine was a very busy 5th century Catholic bishop of the prosperous town of Hippo in North Africa. The area is now part of the country of Algeria. People had already lived in Hippo for a thousand years when Augustine arrived there in 391 AD as a thirty-seven-year-old, recently converted to Christianity.

Augustine lived at a difficult time in history, sandwiched between two ages and two cultures. The classical age of Greek and Roman culture, of which he was a wonderful product, was coming to an end. The future of the Christian culture that would replace it was still in doubt. Cities like Hippo were feeling the steady decay of the old Roman culture and practices. They also experienced increasing threats from invading barbarians. One such group, the Vandals, attacked and destroyed this beloved city as Augustine lay on his death bed during August of the year 430 AD.

Augustine's father, Patricius, was a pagan and a Roman government official in the nearby town of Thagaste. His mother Monica, on the other hand, was a committed Christian of deep virtue. As a young boy, Monica enrolled him in the Church

with those preparing for Christian Baptism. Later his father saw that he received the kind of Roman education that would bring worldly success, yet would lead him away from Christianity.

In his youth, Augustine faced great moral and mental struggles. He had a strong appetite for worldly pleasures. He loved to party and chase girls. He fathered a child when he was a teenager but didn't get married. For years he tried to follow an eastern religion called Manicheanism, and studied pagan philosophies. During this period he looked down on the Bible. He much preferred the classic Latin books and plays that he studied



Saint Augustine (354-430)

in school. Augustine was so talented in this area that he became a very successful teacher of the art of public speaking. For fifteen years, he lived with the woman who was the mother of his illegitimate son, Adeodatus. His lifestyle gave his pious Christian mother many reasons for the tears that she shed for his soul. All in all, Augustine's story really sounds like a modern one!

Augustine finally came to conversion to the Christian faith, helped by the teaching of the Bishop of Milan, Italy (the man now known as St. Ambrose) where he lived for a

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

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Fra' Matthew Festing
The Prince & Grand Master
Magistral Palace, Rome, Italy

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New York, NY

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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 Rigali
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)

A Spiritual Message from Father George

There is a saint inside you...

Have you ever compared yourself to someone else and thought, “if he (or she) could do that, so could I?” Well, if Augustine could become a saint, so can you!

Saint Augustine is a good role model for all of us. He wasn't very churchy at all growing up. In fact he liked to party and chase the girls; he lived with his girlfriend for many years and they had a son together. He had no time for all that Christian stuff his mother was always trying to get him to accept. He liked the high life, the best clothes, good wine, beautiful women and all the pleasures the world can offer.

But he also felt a big emptiness inside and probably asked himself (as we all do sometimes), “*Is this all there is to life?*” He looked for answers in strange cults and in pagan philosophy, but did not find what he was searching for. What finally gave him peace and a sense of meaning in his life was when he began to read the Bible and take seriously what Jesus taught his followers.

St. Augustine's life shows us that to become a saint, we simply have to discover who we really are in God's eyes – and in so doing, we come to discover who God is. St. Augustine wasn't afraid to make mistakes in his life, but he was wise enough to learn from his mistakes. His selfish lifestyle ended up hurting the people he loved the most. It was only after he stopped being self-centered and started to see that life is really about service to others that he began to change. His love of pleasures kept him trapped in a prison of his own creation. His love of God set him free to become who he truly was meant to be, a wise and loving man who was willing to put other people's needs before his own wants.

God worked through him and through his own natural abilities to make him a great teacher of the church. God can work through each one of us, each of us with our own unique talents and abilities to form us into the kind of person we know, deep in our hearts, that we are meant to be.

Augustine wasted the first half of his life chasing empty pleasures. But the second half of his life made up for that. God can do great things with us, no matter how many mistakes we make along the way – because while we *make* mistakes, *we are not mistakes* – and God didn't make any mistakes making us. The key is to believe that, and to trust that God has a purpose for you and for me – just as He did for Augustine.

When I worked at a halfway house for ex-convicts we used to say that our goal was to help the guys go from being takers to being givers. Augustine learned how to do that, and so can you. Because it is God who gives us the power to change. If Augustine could do it, so can you!

Father George T. Williams SJ, Editor of The Serving Brother, recently completed several years of service as a prison chaplain in the Archdiocese of Boston, Massachusetts. In December 2010, he will begin his ministry as Chaplain of San Quentin State Prison in San Quentin, California. The oldest prison in California (opened July 1852), San Quentin houses over 6,000 men, including over 700 on death row.

Mass readings for the fall

WEEK	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
Sept 13-19	1 Cor 11:17-26, 33 Lk 7:1-10	Nm 21:4b-9 Phil 2:6-11 Jn 3:13-17	1 Cor 12:31-13:13 Jn 19:25-27	1 Cor 15:1-11 Lk 7:36-50	1 Cor 15:12-20 Lk 8:1-3	1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49 Lk 8:4-15	Am 8:4-7 1 Tm 2:1-8 Lk 16:1-13
Sept 20-26	Prv 3:27-34 Lk 8:16-18	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13 Mt 9:9-13	Prv 30:5-9 Lk 9:1-6	Eccl 1:2-11 Lk 9:7-9	Eccl 3:1-11 Lk 9:18-22	Eccl 11:9-12:8 Lk 9:43b-45	Am 6:1a, 4-7 1 Tm 6:11-16 Lk 16:19-31
Sept 27-Oct 3	Jb 1:6-22 Lk 9:46-50	Jb 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23 Lk 9:51-56	Rv 12:7-12a Jn 1:47-51	Jb 19:21-27 Lk 10:1-12	Jb 38:1, 12-21, 40:3-5 Lk 10:13-16	Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17 Mt 18:1-5, 10	Hb 1:2-3, 2:2-4 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14 Lk 17:5-10
Oct 4-10	Gal 1:6-12 Lk 10:25-37	Gal 1:13-24 Lk 10:38-42	Gal 2:1-2, 7-14 Lk 11:1-4	Gal 3:1-5 Lk 11:5-13	Gal 3:7-14 Lk 11:15-26	Gal 3:22-29 Lk 11:27-28	2 Kgs 5:14-17 2 Tm 2:8-13 Lk 17:11-19
Oct 11-17	Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1 Lk 11:29-32	Gal 5:1-6 Lk 11:37-41	Gal 5:18-25 Lk 11:42-46	Eph 1:1-10 Lk 11:47-54	Eph 1:11-14 Lk 12:1-7	Eph 1:15-23 Lk 12:8-12	Ex 17:8-13 2 Tm 3:14-4:2 Lk 18:1-8
Oct 18-24	2 Tm 4:10-17b Lk 10:1-9	Eph 2:12-22 Lk 12:35-38	Eph 3:2-12 Lk 12:39-48	Eph 3:14-21 Lk 12:49-53	Eph 4:1-6 Lk 12:54-59	Eph 4:7-16 Lk 13:1-9	Sir 35:12-14, 16-18 2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18 Lk 18:9-14
Oct 25-31	Eph 4:32-5:8 Lk 13:10-17	Eph 5:21-33 Lk 13:18-21	Eph 6:1-9 Lk 13:22-30	Eph 2:19-22 Lk 6:12-16	Phil 1:1-11 Lk 14:1-6	Phil 1:18b-26 Lk 14:1, 7-11	Wis 11:22-12:2 2 Thes 1:11-2:2 Lk 19:1-10
Nov 1-7	Rv 7:2-4, 9-14 1 Jn 3:1-3 Mt 5:1-12a	Wis 3:1-9 Rom 5:5-11	Phil 2:12-18 Lk 14:25-33	Phil 3:3-8a Lk 15:1-10	Phil 3:17-4:1 Lk 16:1-8	Phil 4:10-19 Lk 16:9-15	2 Mc 7:1-2, 9-14 2 Thes 2:16-3:5 Lk 20:27-38
Nov 8-14	Ti 1:1-9 Lk 17:1-6	Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 Jn 2:13-22	Ti 3:1-7 Lk 17:11-19	Phlm 7-20 Lk 17:20-25	2 Jn 4-9 Lk 17:26-37	3 Jn 5-8 Lk 18:1-8	Mal 3:19-20a 2 Thes 3:7-12 Lk 21:5-19
Nov 15-21	Rv 1:1-4 2:1-5 Lk 18:35-43	Rv 3:1-6, 14-22 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17 Lk 19:1-10	Rv 4:1-11 Lk 19:11-28	Rv 5:1-10 Lk 19:41-44	Rv 10:8-11 Lk 19:45-48	Rv 11:4-12 Lk 20:27-40	2 Sm 5:1-3 Col 1:12-20 Lk 23:35-43
Nov 22-28	Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5 Lk 21:1-4	Rv 14:14-19 Lk 21:5-11	Rv 15:1-4 Lk 21:12-19	Rv 18:1-2, 21-23, 19:1-3, 9a Lk 21:20-28	Rv 20:1-4, 11, 21:2 Lk 21:29-33	Rv 22:1-7 Lk 21:34-36	Is 2:1-5 Rom 13:11-14 Mt 24:37-44
Nov 29-Dec 5	Is 4:2-6 Mt 8:5-11	Rom 10:9-18 Mt 4:18-22	Is 25:6-10a Mt 15:29-37	Is 26:1-6 Mt 7:21, 24-27	Is 29:17-24 Mt 9:27-31	Is 30:19-21, 23-26, 5a, 6-8	Is 11:1-10 Rom 15:4-9 Mt 3:1-12

Saint Augustine on the power of prayer

“Prayer is the key of Heaven.”

“As our body cannot live without nourishment, so our soul cannot spiritually be kept alive without prayer.”

“We ought to be persuaded that what God refuses to our prayer, He grants to our salvation. So we should understand that though God gives not what we wish, He gives what is for our good.

“When you are ill, you may ask for something that is bad for you, which the physician knows to be so. Suppose you ask for cold water: if it is good for you,

the doctor will give it at once; if it is not, he will refuse it, but that does not mean that he does not hearken. In denying you your wish, he has hearkened to you for your health.

“So let charity, brethren, be in you: Let charity be in you, and you need have no care. Even when your request is not granted, you are heard, though you know it not. He who faithfully prays to God for the necessities of this life is both mercifully heard, and mercifully not heard. For the physician knows better than the sick man what is good for the disease.”

Join Pope Benedict in prayer

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

- That those who are homeless or do not have work and everyone else in serious need may find understanding and welcome, as well as help in overcoming their difficulties;
- That the Church may be a 'home' for all people, ready to open her doors to any who are refugees because of racial or religious discrimination, hunger or war;
- That in poor parts of the world the Gospel of Jesus Christ may renew people's hearts, and encourage them to work for justice for all people;
- That by opening our hearts to love we may put an end to the many wars and conflicts that bring so much suffering to our world;
- That in every nation there will be free and fair elections, and that people will choose leaders who govern with justice and honesty;
- That especially in our cities, Christians will seek to improve education, and work for justice, solidarity and peace.

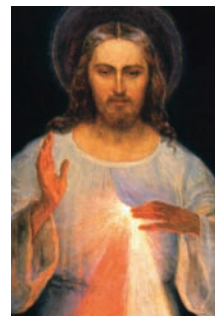
In addition, on behalf of the People of God in the United States of America:

- That mothers and fathers will receive the grace to never be slackers in the sacred trust they have received from God to properly and lovingly care for their children, properly accepting their share of parental duty and carrying it out prayerfully and dependably;
- That the Lord will teach us to profit by the suffering that comes across our paths, using it to mellow us – not harden and embitter us; That it may make us patient, not irritable; That it may make us broad in our forgiveness, not narrow, haughty or overbearing;
- That the Lord will give us faith that is strong and firm at all times and that will not be easily shaken, a faith that is practical and deep and that is alive to a right sense of values in all the details of our lives. May this faith be strong in our dealings with others; may it be a faith that will not yield to human respect and will not be shaken when it hurts to be different and when it is difficult to adhere to His holy wi ✠

Message of the Divine Mercy from Dr. Bryan Thatcher

Saint Augustine and Divine Mercy

The mercy of God in Saint Augustine's life was evident from his early life, through his conversion, to its end in 430 at the age of seventy-



six. He was a gifted student, and his father, so proud of his academic success, sent him to Carthage to prepare for a legal career. There he became victim to the many seductions of a city that was still half pagan: the extravagant living of the other students, the theatres, and the proud desire to be first in everything, even in evil. He irresponsibly fathered a child as a teenager and led a wild life. He struggled for years, and eventually devoted himself to the pursuit of knowledge, which eventually led him to the truth of Christianity.

After accepting Christ, he became one of the Church's greatest teachers. His mother Monica was a saintly woman, who prayed for many years for his conversion. She trusted in the

mercy of God and never lost hope. The words, "Jesus I Trust in You," were just as relevant then as they are today. After his conversion, Augustine sought Divine grace through Christian baptism. In 387, he went to Milan and was baptized by St. Ambrose on Easter. Augustine eventually became Bishop of Hippo and a Doctor of the Church. He was above all a defender of truth and a shepherd of souls.

Do you think that God has given up on you? Do you think that you have committed the unforgivable sin? Do not lose hope and the reality of the love and mercy of God! The witness of Augustine should be a cause of hope for all of us! Never forget that God's mercy is greater than our greatest sin. Jesus told St. Faustina, "My mercy is greater than your sins and those of the entire world" (*Diary of Saint Faustina*, 1485), and "The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy." (*Diary*, 723) ✠

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

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time, and by the continuous prayers of his mother (now known as St. Monica). Upon his conversion he began to live in a monastery with a group of friends that shared his values, together devoting their days to deep prayer and study. God undoubtedly had plans for him. While visiting the Church of Hippo, the people and bishop there recognized his talents and asked him to become a priest, and then their bishop.

In Augustine's time, the rich farm fields of North Africa grew much of the food for the Roman Empire. The nearby port cities of Carthage and Hippo were leading centers of trade. In those days, town government was less well developed. Catholic bishops came to serve not just as ministers, teachers and administrators, but also as judges. In that role, they spent long hours deciding people's claims in the personal and business disputes brought before them.

Despite his many duties, Augustine was a gifted and productive writer. As a bishop and teacher, he responded to many attacks against the Catholic faith. Some people questioned the nature of God and of His Church. Others challenged the authority of bishops and the value of the sacraments. Others still disputed our need for grace and even that Jesus Christ was God. By thoughtfully answering these objections to the Catholic faith, Augustine became an important figure in the basic foundation of western Christian thought. Many of the whole library of books written by Augustine were completed at the request of friends and neighboring bishops. They had asked his help to defend the faith or to address diffi-

cult questions or controversies. His strong influence continues to this day. For example, Pope Benedict XVI recently said that Augustine was the saint who influenced him most as he struggled to be a good teacher and bishop.

Augustine is an important model for us today because he experienced times much like our own. He made many of the same

mistakes that young men and women still make. Despite his weaknesses – many of which he describes in his famous book *The Confessions* – at the young age of nineteen he became firmly committed to the pursuit of true wisdom.

Augustine came to find that Wisdom Itself, Jesus Christ, had been pursuing him much longer and much more energetically than he had been seeking philosophical wisdom. And so for the last forty years of his life, St. Augustine committed himself to teaching, to preaching and to spreading the unmatched wisdom of Christ which he had found in the Catholic Church.

St. Augustine, pray for us! ✠

The author, Sean Innerst is a catechist and theology professor, and is the founding Dean of The Augustine Institute. For more information on St. Augustine and his teaching, write to Professor Innerst at:

The Augustine Institute
3001 S. Federal Blvd., Box 1126
Denver, CO 80236



A mosaic representing the grief of St. Monica

More wisdom from St. Augustine: "Why Christ Chose Fishermen"

"Jesus came to save both the poor and the rich, both the peasant and the prince. But when it came to selection of his apostles, he did not choose princes or the wealthy or the learned or those of noble birth. Instead, he chose fishermen, simple people through whom his grace could shine most clearly.

"If he had first called a king, the king might have thought that it was because of his regal position that he had been chosen. If he had first called a scholar, he might have thought that it was because of his brains that he had been chosen.

"To call the world to humility, the message had to be carried by humble people. And so it was that Christ did not convert fishermen through an emperor but emperors through a fisherman."

The two steps to rehabilitation

My Sisters and Brothers:

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with you!

Some years ago I visited for the first time the APT Foundation here in New Haven where I live. It stands for Addiction, Prevention and Treatment. Established by Yale University, it is the first of its kind in the United States.

I was met by the young doctor in charge and asked him how the rehabilitation process takes place. He told me that, for him, there are two steps. The first, the easier, is to give the patients medicines that take the residue of the drugs from their nerves. Afterward, however, they begin to recall the evil they have done such as stealing from their families, lying, prostitution and other vices. As they struggle with guilt, they are confronted by the temptation to return to the drug scene in order to find relief.

But what about the second step? He told me that he preaches Christ crucified and risen from the dead. He referred me to the First Letter of Saint Peter, chapter 2, verse 24 where the sacred author tells us that Jesus took our sins and guilt and nailed them to the cross, destroying them once and for all. Through his rising to new life, he gives us new life.

As he was finishing, a young man came for his appointment. The doctor asked him to tell me how he felt after hearing about what Jesus did for us. He responded, "I never felt so high in my life."

This must be similar to how Saint Augustine felt after his conversion in the fourth century. How good is the Jesus who became man so that we might become like God, in the very words of Saint Augustine. How good is our Lord Jesus Christ, who once and for all nailed our sins and our guilt to His cross, thus destroying them and giving us hope by His rising from the dead! *Amen* ✠

Bishop Rosazza is Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Hartford

About the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The feast has been celebrated since the 7th century. Its purpose is to commemorate the recovery of a portion of the Holy Cross which had been preserved at Jerusalem, but had fallen into the hands of the Persians. Emperor Heraclius recovered this precious relic and brought it back to Jerusalem on May 3rd, 629.

The "Church Without Walls" Program

The SMOM founded the Jerosolimitan Nuns in Valleta, Malta where the community thrives to this day. Joining hands with the Knights and Dames of the Order in the USA in seeking to serve you, these holy women invite you to pray with them throughout the day.

Based on NYC time, they pray at 1:45am, 5:15am, 7-8am, 9:00am (Rosary), 12:10pm and 2:30pm. 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 like you – are praying with you and for you. You may also send your prayer requests to:

The Mother Prioress
Jerosolimitan Nuns
Saint Ursula Monastery
Saint Ursula Street
Valletta VLT 1235, Malta EU



The "Nuns of Malta" praying together with you – and for you – in their chapel in the city of Valetta, Malta.

Give your brain a workout!

Sudoku Puzzle

9			2	8		5	4	
8				6	1	2	7	
								3
		9						
5	2		7		3		9	6
						4		
6								
	9	5	6	3				8
	3	7		2	8			4

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**

Brain Teasers

There are a few trees in a garden. On one of them, a pear tree, there are pears – quite logically! But after a strong wind blew, there were not pears on the tree, nor pears on the ground. How come?

A basket contains 5 apples. Do you know how to divide them among 5 kids so that each one has an apple and one apple stays in the basket?

The captain of a ship was told this story: "We traveled the sea far and wide. At one time, two of my sailors were standing on opposite sides of the ship. One was looking west and the other one east. And at the same time, they could see each other clearly." How can that be possible?

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.

Patron's Pride!

In the June Edition of The Serving Brother, we asked our Serving Sisters and Brothers how they could best continue the work of the Order of Malta's patron, St. John the Baptist. Here are some of the inspired responses we got:

From the Lansing Correctional Facility, Lansing, Kansas

Considering the challenge presented to us in the June 24th, 2010 article, there could be many superficial and self-serving responses. The only realistic response is this: We can hope to transform the world only if we transform ourselves. There is only one place where our action can be truly effective, and that is in ourselves.

This recalls the story of the man to whom God appeared in a dream, asking him to save the world, and he promised the Lord that he would. When he woke up, he resolved to get to work immediately. But being a practical man, he began to reflect, asking himself some questions:

"Where should I start? Clearly, it must be in my own country. But where in my own country can I most effectively begin? Surely in my hometown, which I know so well. But what part of town should I begin working in? Obviously, in my own home. But who in

my family can I most effectively begin to save? Myself."

Please continue to ask Christ to bestow blessings on each one of us, daily. Only through grace will we all be made vessels to accomplish His will. Thank you for this challenge. May you live up to the potential that the Lord has graced upon you.

Cordially,
A Serving Brother

From the State Penitentiary in Bismarck, North Dakota

I am suggesting a program that would get prisoners thinking about the welfare of others, as well as their own redemption and salvation. This program could be called the Praying for Others Program. The main focus of the program would be to pray with and for the infirm and elderly inmates, most of whom are housed in the prison's infirmary.

Participating in this program would allow inmates to perform spiritual and corporal Acts of Mercy. They would learn to care for others in need and become active participants in the Catholic Church. This program would also serve as a group of friends and like-minded inmates who do not wish to participate in the criminal activities of normal prison environment. By caring for others and actively participating in the Catholic Church, it will help reduce recidivism. They can use the structure of Catholic dogma to give structure to their lives.

If the program proved successful, it could be extended into the local community. By using a local church as the organizing unit, the now rehabilitated former inmates could do the same acts of mercy that they were doing in prison, at local Catholic nursing and retirement homes. Since these former inmates now have a short—but proven—track record, with references, it could lead to gainful employment, perhaps in the same Catholic care facilities they are praying in. They could work as orderlies, care-givers, custodians or in the food service department...With gainful employment, selfless acts, and membership in the Catholic community, the recidivism rate for these former inmates will be significantly reduced.

Thank you for your consideration,
A Serving Brother

Puzzle solutions

1) At first, there were 2 pears on the tree. After the wind blew, one pear fell on the ground. So, there were neither "pears" on the tree, nor "pears" on the ground. 2) Four kids get an apple, and the fifth kid gets the last apple in the basket. 3) Both sailors had their backs to the rail, facing into the boat.

4	6	9	8	2	5	7	3	1
8	1	7	4	3	6	5	9	2
5	2	3	9	7	1	8	4	6
7	5	4	2	1	9	6	8	3
6	9	8	3	4	7	1	2	5
2	3	1	6	5	8	9	7	4
3	8	6	5	9	4	2	1	7
9	7	2	1	6	3	4	5	8
1	4	5	7	8	2	3	6	9

Your Advice Needed...

After years of heartbreak, Saint Monica rejoiced when her misguided son found his way in life and began to live up to his God-given potential. Imagine that you were asked by a much-loved younger brother or sister to help them find their way out of a mess that they had created in their life. What rock-solid advice would you give? Please share your thoughts with our community. We'll be sure to print "the best of the best" of your expert advice! Send your letter to this address:

The Knights and Dames of Malta, 43 Essex Street, Andover, MA 01810