

Dear Fellow Knights and Dames:

*You have recently received an attractive prayer card in a mailing from the Malta office. I apologize for not having this letter ready to include in the packet. This following will explain the purpose of the card.*

I am writing to you as a member of the Sub-Priory of Our Lady of Lourdes and at the request of our Regent, Joseph Metz. Members of the Second Class and the Sub-Priory have a responsibility to pray for all members of the Order and to be of help in promoting the spiritual life of all members. With this in mind we are taking on the role of providing a means for our full membership to pray daily for the success of one of the Order's principal works: Prison Ministry.

The Grand Master has asked that the 3 US Associations work together on a signature project-prison ministry. That this ministry is relevant to the Order's work is best seen in our Daily Prayer which encourages us to "practice charity toward my neighbors, especially the poor and the sick." Those in prison, for the most part, are poor both economically and spiritually; many are sick, principally through drug use and mental instability. At bottom, we recognize that the prospect of praying for the incarcerated may not sit well with a number of our members. But, we need to remind ourselves of Jesus' words-"I was in prison and you visited me". These words of Our Lord are specifically mentioned in our Order's Regulations (Sec.III.4) in describing members' obligations to serve the poor.

Enclosed you will find an attractive prayer card with a picture of an imprisoned Christ and a brief prayer. We are asking you to pray this prayer daily for those incarcerated and for those who visit them. Not all of us can respond physically to this particular work of mercy, but we can respond through prayer.

May God Bless your efforts.

Barbara Murphy, DMOB