

# Prairie Fire News

Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Fraternity, O.F.S.

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Justice



Peace



Integrity of Creation



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## The Criminal Justice System Statistics from Social Justice Resource Center



**55%** of all American adults have had a family member in jail or prison.

—[Fwd.us](http://Fwd.us)

**66%** of prisoners at the federal level and about **50%** at the state level are in for drug related offenses.

—Calvin College Prison Initiative

**27** states allow for people to be charged with “felony murder” even when the defendants did not set out to kill anyone or even play a direct role in the death itself.

—American Civil Liberties Union

In a given year, over **160,000** people are incarcerated for a “technical violation” probation or parole, such as a failed drug test.

—The Prison Policy Initiative

In 2018, the US incarcerated **655** out of every **100,000** citizens. For comparison, Russia imprisoned **415**, England & Wales **142**, France **102**, and Germany **77**.

—Calvin College Prison Initiative

Most American states spend more on their prisons that they do on education. **15** states spend at least **\$27,000** more per prisoner than they do per student. The leader is California which invests **\$64,642** per prisoner compared to **\$11,495** per student—a **\$53,146** difference in spending priorities. New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Rhode Island round out the top states spending more on prisons.

—The Daily Mail

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### COMING REGIONAL EVENTS

**September 27–29, 2019**  
Regional Retreat and Silver Jubilee

### NATIONAL EVENTS

**August 29–September 1, 2019**  
National JPIC Convocation, St. Louis, MO

**The Criminal Justice System continued**

**76%** of people in local jails are not convicted of a crime, and many are there because they can't afford bail money.

—The Prison Policy Initiative

On average, a phone call from a local jail costs over 3 times more than a phone call from a state prison. Nationally, the average cost of a 15-minute call from jail is **\$5.61**. The states with the highest rates: Arkansas **\$14.49**, Michigan **\$12.03**, Montana **\$9.24**, Kansas **\$8.49** and North Dakota **\$8.20**.

—The Prison Policy Initiative

The Rand Corporation recently completed a study on the effects of education in prison and found the following:

- Education in prison reduced the recidivism rate by at least **43%**.
- Increases chances of employment by **28%**.
- For every **\$1** spent on education, reduces the incarceration rate by **\$4–5**.

For more on the Criminal Justice System, [click here](#).



*The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being...*

*~ St. John Paul II*

**From Daily Ray of Hope—Sierra Club**



*The manner of giving is worth more than the gift.*

*~ Pierre Corneille*

***Word for the Day—from Gratefulness.org***

*In appreciating our neighbor, we're participating in something truly sacred.*

*~ Fred Rogers*

***AN EXCERPT FROM PATRICK CAROLAN'S COMMENTARY FROM THE AUGUST FAN NEWSLETTER******21st Sunday in Ordinary Time***

I often ask myself, 'What is that good news that Jesus told us to preach?'

Is it about something and someplace far away in the distance? Is the Good News that, at some point (if we are good) we get to go somewhere else? It is awfully hard to tell the world something that we really don't fully understand ourselves.

Our theology teaches us that Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins so we could get into Heaven. Maybe this is the Good News; because we were damned by the sin of Adam, Jesus had to come and save us and now when we die, we can "go to Heaven." Whatever we do on Earth is only important insofar as it helps us get to Heaven. Is that the Good News?

Blessed John Duns Scotus said, "The Incarnation of the Son of God is the very reason for the whole Creation. To think that God would have given up such a task had Adam not sinned would be quite unreasonable! I say, therefore, that the fall was not the cause of Christ's predestination and that - if no one had fallen, neither the angel nor man - in this hypothesis Christ would still have been predestined in the same way." If Scotus is right then Jesus didn't come to save us from original sin. Maybe, just maybe, the "Good News" which we seemed to have lost over the past 2000 years, is that the Kingdom of Heaven is here. The good news isn't that Jesus came so we can go somewhere else but he came to create the kingdom here on earth.

***Collect Prayer:***

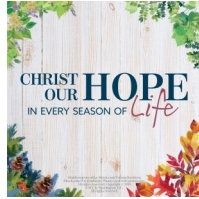
***O God, who cause the minds of the faithful  
to unite in a single purpose,  
grant your people to love what you command  
and to desire what you promise,  
that, amid the uncertainties of this world,  
our hearts may be fixed on that place  
where true gladness is found.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.***

***Amen***

From *This Nonviolent life—Daily Inspiration for your non-violent journey*  
~Pace e Bene Nonviolent Service

*When it gets down to using violence, then you are playing the system’s game. The establishment will irritate you—pull your beard, flick your face—to make you fight. Because once they’ve got you violent, they know how to handle you. The only thing that they do not know how to handle is non-violence and humor.*

—John Lennon



**OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH**

HERE ARE A NUMBER OF RESOURCES TO HELP WITH YOUR CELEBRATION

WORD OF LIFE This is a monthly resource from USCCB

RESPECT LIFE A resource from the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities (USCCB)

RESPECT LIFE ACTION GUIDE A resource to help plan the month’s activities

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**SEASON OF CREATION**

**The Season of Creation is our special time for the Creator and each other.** From September 1 to October 4, Christians around the world celebrate the Season of Creation. Some of us pray, some of us do hands-on projects, some of us advocate. **We all protect creation. It’s powerfully good work that’s urgently needed.** The momentum continues long after the season ends through ongoing prayer, changes in lifestyle, and advocacy. **During the Season of Creation, we live out our faith to care for creation.**

For more information, [click here.](#)

**Daily Catholic Wisdom** ~Jason Evert from “Purity 365”

*Because God is love, and we are made in his image and likeness, our relationships should reflect him in the world. This, perhaps, is the greatest form of evangelization: to make an invisible God visible to the world through our love.*