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To my dear Brothers who art in Prison. The new year 2019 has arrived and it is my goal to give you great joy and peace in this new year. I can do that if you increase your faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. Let me start with a letter I received not to long ago from a man who was in prison for a crime he did not commit. Now I receive a letter about every six months from inmates who say they are innocent of the crime they were convicted for and I believe them. I cannot imagine the pain you suffer for being in prison, especially if you were wrongly convicted. I know you know some inmates in that position, well please share this letter with them and be grateful in your heart that your are not on death row getting ready to die for a crime you din not commit. Imagine being wrongly accused. Well to those of you who are wrongly accused this letter is for you and for the rest of us who are feeling bad about our situation. You are in good company with the saints of God. A saint is a person in heaven with Jesus, you mothers are saints. But the Catholic Church recognizes people who led holy lives and we are sure they are in heaven with Jesus. Here are some names that you will or should recognize from your bible.

**Matthew** suffered martyrdom by being slain with a sword at a distant city of Ethiopia. **Mark** expired at Alexandria, after being cruelly dragged through the streets of that city. **Luke** was hanged upon an olive tree in the classic land of Greece. **John** was put in a caldron of boiling oil, but escaped death in a miraculous manner, and was afterward banished to Patmos. **Peter** was crucified at Rome with his head downward. **James**, the Greater, was beheaded at Jerusalem. **James**, the Less, was thrown from a lofty pinnacle of the temple, and then beaten to death with a fuller's club. **Bartholomew** was flayed alive. **Andrew** was bound to a cross, whence he preached to his persecutors until he died. **Thomas** was run through the body with a lance at Coromandel in the East Indies. **Jude** was shot to death with arrows. **Matthias** was first stoned and then beheaded. **Barnabas** of the Gentiles was stoned to death at Salonica. **Paul**, after various tortures and persecutions, was at length beheaded at Rome by the Emperor Nero. Yes all the apostles suffered greatly because they were servants of the Lord and before they died they were homeless wanderers of the world and often imprisoned and beaten because they preached the good news of Jesus. There lives on the earth were hard, yes harder than yours, yet they were happy and full of Joy and Peace. Now let me tell you about another man a Catholic Priest who died as I was being born. His name was Max Kolbe #16670. He was imprisoned by the Nazis in World War II for being a Catholic priest and serving the Lord Jesus Christ. On 28 May, he was transferred to [Auschwitz](#) as prisoner 16670. Continuing to act as a priest, Kolbe was subjected to violent harassment, including beating and lashings. Once he was smuggled to a prison hospital by friendly inmates. At the end of July 1941, one prisoner escaped from the camp, prompting the deputy camp commander, to pick 10 men to be starved to death in an underground bunker to deter further escape attempts. When one of the selected men, [Franciszek Gajowniczek](#), cried out, "My wife! My children!", Kolbe volunteered to take his place. According to an eyewitness, an assistant janitor at that time, in his prison cell, Kolbe led the prisoners in prayer. Each time the guards checked on him, he was standing or kneeling in the middle of the cell and looking calmly at those who entered. After they had been starved and deprived of water for two weeks, only Kolbe remained alive. "The guards wanted the bunker emptied, so they gave Kolbe a lethal injection of [carbolic acid](#). Kolbe is said to have raised his left arm and calmly waited for the deadly injection. He died for Love. Now my dear friends I know some of you were wrongly accused, but if you are like me, I have done many things against God and man that I was not punished for. So none of us are truly innocent. Accept your fate in life and make the best of it. The Bible says in the book of Acts about the apostles "After recalling the apostles, they had them flogged, ordered them to stop speaking in the name of Jesus, and dismissed them. <sup>41</sup> So they left the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name. <sup>42</sup> And all day long, both at the temple and in their homes, they did not stop teaching and proclaiming the Messiah, Jesus." They were beaten severely and they rejoiced in the Lord. The Bible also says "Endure your trials as "discipline"; God treats you as sons. For what "son" is there whom his father does not discipline? Should we not [then] submit all the more to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup> They disciplined us for a short time as seemed right to them, but he does so for our benefit, in order that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup> At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it." If you suffer accept it; strive to be a saint not a sinner and the God of Love will give you a great peace in your heart, all you need is to have faith that your suffering is making you a better son of God, which is exactly who you are, so learn to live like one. love michael