

ORTHODOX BIBLE/BOOK STUDY @ OREGON STATE PRISON, SALEM

OSP NEWS & PRAYER LETTER

Class Date: June 7, 2017

Inmates Present: 7

Leaders Present: 3; Fr. Jerry Markopoulos, Joanna Jaquette, Paul Crawford.

Study Subject: Journey to Fullness DVD by Fr. Barnabas Powell, Parts 3 & 4.

Three weeks ago was our last OSP Orthodox Christian Bible Study. When the men came into the room they were upbeat. They seemed more ready to trust us, were comfortable in being with us and wanting to learn about Orthodoxy. Most men in prison aren't willing to trust anyone. The most amazing thing, though, was that the inmates were fellowshiping together!

Joanna was with us today; her work schedule gave her the time to come up from Eugene. The three of us met April 19 and discussed the Prison Ministry and what we might do to make it more effective. This Wednesday we took the first step by reading the names and stories of our "Saints for the Day"! The men seemed very quiet afterward, not knowing how to respond to the lives of Saints. About half of the men in class have probably never had any experience with Saints during classes or worship services. Soon we are hoping to offer short actual Orthodox worship services (such as Ninth Hour prayers), a more formal Catechism program and supplying paper icons and prayer ropes. Fr. Jerry is looking into offering confession to the inmates and a way for our parishes to write letters to inmates. Today we watched and discussed Journey To Fullness, parts 3 and 4.

Pray For:

- 1) The class leaders to hear the Holy Spirit's voice and to watch with patience for His work in the inmates;
- 2) The inmates, especially the more reticent ones, to be willing to trust the Lord with their prayers and lives, and to be confident in His love for them. "And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in Him" (1 John 4:16);
- 3) God to choose the right words for each inmate from the Journey To Fullness and cause these to stick to their souls;
- 4) Continued protection from prison threats for all the inmates;
- 5) The invitation in the OSP weekly schedule of religious and educational meetings to be seen, and draw many to look into Orthodoxy with us.

In Christ our life,

Paul