



St. Dismas Guild

Feb. 2019

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105

PO Box 2129 Escondido CA 92033 – www.stdismasguild.org

This Year we Hope/Pray to send 2,000 Packages and 50,000 Newsletters, Free of Charge,
because of your prayers and generous support.

Please help us continue to spread God’s message of Mercy and Love!



TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, I am currently finishing up a 38-month sentence. I have never been in trouble in my life before now, and while this has been the hardest 3+ years of my life, I feel blessed to have been humbled by God in such a way that it affected change in every aspect of my life. Remaking me in His image, to be the man He wants me to be, and to do His will in my life, not mine. Along the way I found the faith I never had before, in Catholicism. In May 2017 I was baptized and confirmed as a Catholic. Receiving Christ through the Eucharist for the first time was one of the most enlightening moments of my life. Sadly, that was the last time I got to partake in the Eucharist.

While being transferred to a prison where I could get work release was a big prayer answered. The facilities I’ve been at since have not had any Catholic services available to us. I’ve continued to read my Bible and Catechism, studying the Catholic faith, but without being able to attend Mass, receive the Eucharist, and learn the prayers and holiday observances I feel like my education as a Catholic has become stagnant. I have been looking for ways to remedy this: fellowship with the few Catholics I’ve come into contact with, have family members (non-Catholic) send me materials to study, etc. I still have a thirst to know as much as I can.

A friend recently gave me the St. Dismas Guild’s information, so I am writing you for any and all help you can send (Bible Study, prayer books, and lists of any Holiday observances, etc.). Being baptized and confirmed was the beginning of my walk as a Catholic. I am being released soon, starting my walk as a Catholic in the outside world. As my faith has been tested through trials, tribulations and temptations in prison, it will be tested even more once I get out. I just want to be as prepared as I can be, so I can continue to live the selfless, humble, forgiving life He has shown me and to be the father my son deserves and to put my faith and family before all else. Thank you! God bless! J.B.

J.B., You say you feel blessed to have been humbled by God in such a way that it affected a change in every aspect of your life. God loves you so much that He did allow you to come to prison where you have no control over your life. Someone else comes in and takes control and you must conform to what they say and do in order not to be punished. That certainly is humbling. Humility is the opposite of pride. The original sin of pride continues in man and woman today. That is doing things my way and not God’s way.

*The Good Shepherd goes out after His lost sheep and He found you in that prison and is now giving you Himself in the Holy Eucharist to strengthen you. What an awesome God we have. It is good you have humbled yourself and are now listening to God for **“It is God who, in His good will toward you, begets in you any measure of desire or achievement.”** **Philippians 2:13** We sent you our Bible Study workbook. Study it with the understanding that the Holy Spirit will remind you of all that Jesus said and did when He walked this earth.*

Become an imitator of God, Ephesians 5:1, and all things will work for your good, Romans 8:28.

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

To Whom It May Concern: I have been receiving the St. Dismas Guild newsletter for about four years now. I first requested a Bible to learn about the different books the Christian Bible didn’t offer. I never got “around” to reading them. I am now rededicating my life to Christ in the Catholic Church. Before, I claimed Christianity, but I have recently heard God calling me to another path of Faith. I wish to receive another Catholic Bible and study guide so I can dive deep into the Word of God and also learn more about what Mass and partaking of the Eucharist is all about. I also hope to get a Catechism of the Catholic Church, with any and all material involving the celebrated and traditional practices of the Catholic Faith that you can issue to me at this time.

A little bit about me in hopes to be a living testimony for the St. Dismas Guild. I’ve been receiving these newsletters for four years running now and have only read about four of them. I haven’t received one in what feels like over three months, maybe longer because I recently caught a SHU (Special Housing Unit / Solitary Confinement) term due to my anger and aggression getting in the way of myself. I’ve noticed this repeating pattern and broke down in my cell with tear drops building up on the floor. I reached out to God once again and asked him for his redemption and the very next day I received a St. Dismas Guild Newsletter, and again I wept. At that moment I realized God was, is, and always has been calling me for quite some time now. Only the power of our God can chase you so loudly! We just have to accept the open invitation he’s sending.

Thank you to the Church body for your support. May God keep you, bless you, and Love you forever and ever. With Love, J.D.

*J.D. Scripture says **“If you are angry, let it be without sin. The sun must not go down on your wrath; do not give the devil a chance to work on you”** Ephesians 4:26-28. Many are in prison because of their anger. There is very little righteous anger. Jesus was very angry as **Matthew 21:12-14** says, **“Jesus entered the temple precincts and drove out all those engaged there in buying and selling. He overturned the money-changers’ tables and the stalls of the dove-sellers, saying to them, ‘Scripture has it, My house shall be called a house of prayer, But you are turning it into a den of thieves.’”** Jesus had righteous anger because He was angry over what was being done to His Father’s house and others being cheated. When our anger is on what is happening to other people the harm being done to them is righteous anger but anger because someone has offended you is not righteous anger and gets people into trouble or into prison. It takes time, study God’s Word to get rid of the unrighteous anger in you. We are sending you a Bible, Bible Study, Basic Catechism and Pamphlets. Study John 6 to learn all about the Eucharist. Let the peace of Christ be with you.*

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Greetings and Happy New Year! Thank you for the Bread of Life Bible Study, it's great and keeps my mind focused on God and church. I greatly appreciate that you all are there for me. Especially when it seems that one is alone. I only have to do your study or read your newsletter and I am reminded that Jesus is there beside me along with my brothers and sisters in the faith. Thank you again and God's blessings on you all, J.E.

Dear J.E., Thank you for your kind, encouraging words. Continue to use the Bible and Bible Study to keep your focus on God. But if you feel that you are struggling on your own, you can write to us to request a spiritual mentor. "Plans fail when there is no counsel, but they succeed when advisers are many" Proverbs 15:22. And remember that you are always remembered in the prayers of Saint Dismas Guild.

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCH'S DEDICATION FOR FEBRUARY

2019: The month of February is dedicated to the **Holy Family**. The special devotion which proposes the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the model of virtue of all Christian households began in the 17th century. This year the entire month of February falls within the liturgical season of **Ordinary Time** which is represented by the liturgical color green. Green, the symbol of hope, is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection.



POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION: Human Trafficking: For a generous welcome to the victims of human trafficking, of enforced prostitution, and of violence.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

By Fr. Richard

I have had demons manifest in people and really speak through them with threats. How do I cast them out?

Dear M.V., JESUS CHRIST is the remedy against any demon. Sometimes the demonic is experienced in people, in places, in things, or even obsessive thoughts, and most rarely actual possession.

Keep your eye on JESUS. Always speak to Him, never to a demon, when you feel evil present.

The Lord's prayer is very powerful. It is Matthew 6 of the bible. The St. Michael prayer invokes the archangel who cast Satan from heaven, to assist us when evil threatens.

"St. Michael the archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of

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God, cast into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls."

Rid your soul of all evil thoughts, of unforgiveness, of vengeance, of lust, of envy. Pray, read your bible, if you are Catholic receive confession and communion to strengthen you.

Remember St. Paul tells us in the letter to the Romans chapter 10 that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus will be saved.

FAMILY MINISTRY

Discover the true meaning of love through God's plan for the family...

Questions for reflection from "Secrets of a Happy Family" by Deacon Ken and Marie Finn (on our list of books).

- How does worship impact the quality of my life?
- How am I handling "role reversal"?
- How can I become more accountable to my spouse and others?

Ephesians 5:25-26 "*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, purifying her in the bath of water by the power of the Word.*"

Application of Lesson - Chapter 2 Husbands, each day this week, read a Scripture passage from the Gospel to your wife and talk about it.

Let us pray: Lord, I desire to listen to whatever you tell me and to follow your lead in all I say and go. I ask you to close my ears to what is not from you and open my heart to your work and everlasting love. Amen

PRO-LIFE

Letter from an inmate – Thank you for responding to my letters. Please continue praying with me. I like to pray for Pro-Life ministries to prevent abortions, executions, suicide and for all the hungry and needy. May the Lord find a way to touch their hearts and give them hope through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His Word is True and Confirmed. Lord teach us the wisdom and give us Courage to continue sharing your blessings and the goodness in other's hearts. Amen. Your sister in Christ, C.G.

"Fewer women would have abortions if wombs had windows." Dr. Bernard Nathanson, former abortionist turned Pro-Life, in his 1979 book "Aborting America"

RESOURCE

SEEKING TESTIMONIES - Please write to us and tell us your story. Please format your testimony in this way - 1/3 Child/teenage years, 1/3 How did Christ change your life? and 1/3 How is God working in your life now? Please limit it to 500 words. Thank you...

PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

Lord Jesus Christ, who, being made subject to Mary and Joseph, didst consecrate domestic life by Thine ineffable virtues; grant that we, with the assistance of both, may be taught by the example of Thy holy Family and may attain to its everlasting fellowship. Who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

Keep us in your prayers. Blessings, St Dismas Guild