



# St. Dismas Guild

July 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](http://www.stdismasguild.org)

We receive many letters each week from inmates and send, on average, 150 Packages and 4,000 Newsletters per month to prison facilities across the United States. Our introductory package consists of; The Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study, a Catholic Bible, a Basic Catechism, Prayer Pamphlets w/Saint Cards, a Monthly Newsletter and a List of Books, at a cost of about \$25 per package. Please consider making a monthly donation to sponsor a new inmate each month.



## TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, I absolutely appreciate all the materials you have sent. It is very incredible what God does for the ones who love Him back. In this dark, dank place of lost souls we, as good Catholics and as good Christians, need to be that lamp on the lamp stand for all to see. No matter what is thrown at us, as long as we walk with Our Lord, Jesus Christ, nothing can harm us.

I've been in prison now for over 22 years on a 30-year for 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder. So, I'm 53 and had a heart attack a few years ago and a stroke a few years later. I have recovered 85% and probably won't recover much more, but to just look at me and watch me, you can't tell I've had a stroke. But God has never left my side. I've left Him a couple of times and us humans sometimes put doubt in our minds. But have faith! God is great. If it had not been for the love of God, I would not have made it this far.

Now I look forward to November of 21. I look forward to being home with my family spending quality time with those family members whom I've never met and those whom have known me for years. Some still hold hard feelings, but **God will work all of that out. God is great, and He has a plan in our lives, just trust in Him in the good as well as the bad.** Thank Him for our life experiences. Thank you, St. Dismas Guild, for your work and save as many souls as you can. Your Brother in Christ, P.C.

*Dear P.C., you're right when you do go home God will work everything out. This time of isolation in prison has brought you to understand and trust in God. You have made your time in prison a seminary and not a cemetery. You obviously have come to know and trust in God through your study of His word. It's amazing how God allowed the heart attack and stroke in your life to happen to bring you closer to him and learn to trust in him. Continue to **“Trust in the Lord with all your heart rely not on your own understanding, in all your ways be mindful of Him and He will make straight your path” (Proverbs 3:5-6).***

## DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear Brother or Sister, I'm just writing to tell you thank you for your newsletter. I also want to tell you that I'm sorry for leaving the Catholic faith. I did a wrong thing. I listened to man instead of God and ever since I have been feeling down. But I talked to brothers from the Catholic faith and they told me **it is never too late to come back.** They also told me of the **Prodigal Son** and I'm ready to come back home. I had given away everything that had to do with the Catholic faith. I'm sorry, now I'm trying to put my pieces back together. If God is willing, would you please send me a Catholic bible, Catechism of the Catholic Church, and other books. Thank you. I and a few brothers here are

starting to do the rosary together. They are helping me put my pieces back together as well. Thank you and God Bless. Your Brother, E.C.

*Welcome Home! E.C., God knows you're sorry because you are turning back to Him. That's what we call repentance. His word says, **“But if we acknowledge our sins, he who is just can be trusted to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrong” (1 John 1:9).** He sees your repentant heart. **1 Samuel 16:7 says, “Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart.”** He loves you with an everlasting love EC. Get to know Him personally through the word of God and then you will know the truth about yourself and the truth will set you free. It is so easy to get off track in this world where so many are bashing the church. We sent you the books you requested plus the bible study. God bless you.*

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Dear St. Dismas Guild, It has been several years since I have written. For the most part, I had fallen away from my faith in God. At one point I had even considered writing you to have the newsletter stopped. However, I had a Catholic friend who enjoyed the newsletter, so I continued receiving them for his sake. He has your address but won't have you send the newsletter to him as long as there are others receiving it around him.

My lapse in faith was connected to the loss of my four-year-old nephew, and then actions by the Pope during his American visit, which I took as evidence that God wasn't real. I'm not placing blame here, simply setting the picture. Truth is I was angry at the loss of my young nephew for no reason. And I couldn't “logically” justify a “loving” God allowing so much unnecessary suffering while the wicked prosper. I live so much in my head; I often forget the wisdom of the heart! Yet, **God never gave up on me** and I am once more called to His service!!

Your newsletter arrived in God's perfect time! As I stated, I have been denying God for some time, and only came to return to His embrace shortly after transferring here recently. Unfortunately, this place doesn't have a Priest visiting here and I only know of two other Catholics here, (though there may be more in 250 inmates). Thus, I have yet to go to confession and receive communion since turning back to God. And none of us here know how to contact the local Catholic Bishop to ask about getting someone to visit here occasionally. If St. Dismas Guild would help us obtain the Bishop's contact information, we will be grateful. Also, if it is not too much trouble, I would like to request a Catholic Bible and catechism.

Thank you for your time and help in these matters. And may God bless you in all your days. By His grace. M.D.

*Dear M.D., we are so sorry to hear of the death of your four-year-old nephew. It is so heartbreaking when a child dies. So many innocent people die needlessly. Death came into this world through the disobedience of*

man. God intended that we have the abundant life, free of death but through the sin of our first parents we now pay the consequences. Praise be to Jesus Christ who conquered death from the cross for all that believe in Him. **“I will turn their mourning into joy. I will comfort them and exchange their sorrow for rejoicing.” Jeremiah 31:13**

## FAMILY MINISTRY

Hello St. Dismas Guild, This letter is to inform you that I have a new address as well as ask for a copy of your wonderful book “Secrets to a Happy Family.” I am currently serving a rather short sentence thanks to my many prayers to the Lord. I’m not a Catholic but I have long followed Catholic values. I am a **38-year-old father of seven children** with six here on earth and one in heaven. She would be turning 18 this year. When I lost her as a full-term stillborn it pushed me away from God because I thought “how could God take away a gift from above.” It wasn’t until I got locked up this time around facing 25-to-life that I even considered giving religion a try again.

I went to Catholic Church service and received the form for you guys and got my first Catholic Bible. I like reading from it. I feel the translation is perfect and the footnotes are far superior to those found elsewhere. I feel a large change in my life, and **I can’t imagine where I would be had I not decided to give Jesus another chance.** He has delivered me from a 25-to-life sentence facing a 3<sup>rd</sup> strike to getting the strike dismissed at prelim. And the first words out of my attorney’s mouth were **“Thank God.”** I spent that morning praying the Prayer for Victory that you sent me with the Bible. I even carried the paper with me to court that day! I feel so blessed to have had my future go to 65%! As it stands, my date is next year, but with milestones I could be home before Christmas.

I would like to thank you for everything and also ask for a spiritual mentor to help me on the road toward putting my marriage and life back together, since, thanks to the Lord, I get another chance to be a husband, father and son again. Sincerely, L.A.

*LA, it is amazing how God gives us a second chance always calling us back to His embrace if we turn to Him. He never stops loving you. We sent you Secrets of a Happy Family which is the biblical role of the family. I Corinthians 11:3 says, “I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ; the head of a woman is her husband; and the head of Christ is the Father”, is a powerful scripture. Stay with the bible study we sent you asking the Holy Spirit to teach you how to live God’s way. As you learn to yield to God’s plan for your life and let go of the things of this world and the people of this world, you begin finding the peace that passes all understanding. Being the father of seven children is a great responsibility and the best thing you can give your children is a love relationship with your wife where you are dying to yourself and thinking of her needs. That’s what Jesus did for His bride. Ephesians 5:25 says, “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church. He gave himself up for her to make her holy, purifying her in the bath of water by the power of the word.” God bless you.*

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTION With Fr. Richard P.

What does “Paraclete” mean?

*Paraclete* (Greek: παράκλητος, Latin: paracletus) means advocate or helper. In Christianity, the term “**paraclete**” most commonly refers to the Holy Spirit.

## PRO-LIFE

### “PAIN REVISITED” article by Patti S. and Leslie B.

The recent changes in abortion law in many states such as Alabama and Louisiana is something kept fervently in prayer for many years.

As Director and Assistant Director of Rachel’s Hope Healing ministry, we facilitate healing retreats for women who have had abortions. For two days, we witness the excruciating emotional suffering abortion inflicts on vulnerable and frightened women. Thanks to Planned Parenthood and other abortion facilities, these women had the procedure, not knowing or being advised of the devastating psychological, spiritual, and physical trauma waiting to attack them years afterward. Trauma waiting to destroy every aspect of their lives ... their self-esteem, self-worth, relationships, faith, employment, parenting, etc.

The process of healing is emotional and painful, but the result is worth it, but as these courageous and injured women started the process, they could not yet feel the love, forgiveness and hope to come from God’s infinite mercy. While listening to their stories and watching the tears flow down their cheeks, our minds wander back to the time we too fell victim to the misleading rhetoric. Our hearts threaten to break into tiny little pieces but, praise God, through the healing received; we have the tools to avert a complete melt-down.

After each retreat, our commitment to pro-life grows tenfold. Planned Parenthood and their counterparts **should** be more than willing to advise their clients of the potential side effects of abortion. They claim to be the major defender and caring (?) provider of women’s healthcare, after all. But then, if the truth was known, women would think twice about abortion, and clinics would no longer rake in the millions of dollars, forcing them to close their doors (what a wonderful thought) thus saving the lives of our precious unborn and the hearts and souls of the mothers and others involved in the abortion decision.

**Abortion providers not only profit from the deaths of innocent lives, but they also take advantage of the frightened, the poor, the coerced, the vulnerable, and the misinformed. They must be stopped!** How? By each parishioner getting involved in pro-life activities and voting only for pro-life candidates. Remember ... silence is consent.

**“America, your very future as a nation depends on your willingness to protect the Right to Life of the most defenseless in your society.” – St. Pope John Paul II**

## REQUEST

### SEEKING TESTIMONIES

Please write to us and tell us your story. 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?



**Blessings, St Dismas Guild**

**St. Dismas Guild:** 501(c)(3) non-profit organization - Evangelization through Scripture and Ministry to prisons.

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