



St. Dismas Guild

October 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

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE!!!

We send, Free of Charge, on average 120 Packages & 4,000 Newsletters per month to prison facilities (currently in over 700) across the United States.

Please consider making a monthly donation to sponsor a new inmate each month.



TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, Blessings and salutations from TX. My letter has two purposes. One to thank you so much for the Bible and materials you sent to me. They are greatly appreciated! The second is to give you a testimony.

I was born in Texas to teenage parents. They divorced when I was three years old. My mother raised me by herself until I was five. That is when she married my stepfather. He was abusive to my mother and me. My biological father was emotionally absent. At the age of eleven I began to experiment with alcohol, drugs and sexual immorality. By the age of 16 I was an addict. I always believed in Jesus but didn't have a relationship. I was arrested for sexual immorality. Even in prison I continued to act out in sexual sin.

In February of 20??, I was sent to high security because I was caught sexually acting out. At that moment I found my rock bottom and turned to Jesus. I started reading the Bible and Christian self-help books. I learned about Jesus and the salvation he offers, and I learned about addition to drugs, alcohol and sex. I was released back into the population in 20??. At that time, I started attending church on a weekly basis and chapel classes. Today I continue my spiritual journey by daily prayer, meditation, religious readings, with Christian mentors and chapel classes including RCIA. God is constantly working in my life. By the grace of God I have not found it necessary to use alcohol or drugs or act out sexually since 20??. And God has restored my relationship with my paternal father.

Today I look forward to the present because the past is gone. All we can do about it is learn from it and move on. The future is not promised. J.H.

Dear J.H., It took hitting rock bottom for you to call out to Jesus and He is transforming your life. “I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Now I am healing you...” 2 Kings 20:5

The playwright Oscar Wilde wrote “Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future.” Many people get bogged down in their past and find it hard to accept God’s forgiveness or to forgive themselves. But you overcame that. Now you are staying close to God by reading Scripture, attending Christian classes and RCIA, avoiding the sins of the past and repairing relationships. See how God is working in your life; STAY ON THE PATH! Your testimony will give Hope to all who read it. “For I know well the plans I have in mind for you – plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of Hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

To Whom It May Concern, I'm writing to ask for prayers for my appeal and for my family as well. I took my case to trial and lost. My father committed suicide in 2015 and a few months later a friend of my family was arrested and asked if he could work his charges off. So, this gentleman sought me out and asked me to get him

drugs, and I did. He was a confidential informant for the police and at this time in my life I was a heavy drug user. It masked the pain of my father's death. My mind set was not in a good place. When I lost my trial, the judge sentenced me to 50 + years for a non-dangerous crime.

I'm in the process of my appeal and pray every day that the Lord gives me strength, hope, and spirit to get through this time. It is truly amazing how the Lord speaks to me in subtle ways now that I'm clean and sober. If you could please keep me in your prayers, it would be a blessing. I haven't given up hope or my faith in God. He is walking beside me, guiding me and holding my hand. If there is any assistance that you could pass my way for help through this time to lift my spirits, could you please send information or correspondence to me, please. Thank you and God bless you. Sincerely, A.L.

Dear A.L., we will keep you in our prayers. I believe you are very sincere... but God is judge. Please read Sirach 17:15-24.

Just as you lost your trial... that doesn't mean our Lord has forgotten you. There is some other plan our Lord has going on, which none of us knows the mind of the Lord... or what's behind all this? So that is why He is patient with us and is trying to teach us patients as well. Knowing God has His plan for our better need. Read Sirach 18:8-14

Always trust our Lord and be faithful... remember we will always have our trials. Even gold is tested through fire to be pure... Read Sirach 2:1-9 also Sirach 3:20-29.

Remember Jesus cares about every detail of your life. “He knows every hurt of your heart.” Psalm 34:18

So, my dear sister in Christ, be patient and keep TRUSTING God's Will and God's Time. He knows what's good for you and when...

Remember, His will be done always!

I pray for you today and every day that God's strength will be there when yours is gone and that His Grace and Mercy will carry you on... that the everlasting LOVE He has for you will lift you up and see you through!

“Pray, Hope, & Don't Worry...” Saint Padre Pio

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Dear St. Dismas Guild, many thanks for all the Catholic material you have sent me because, although I am Catholic from birth, with every pamphlet, every booklet, and every book I am learning more and more. Thank you for the book, **Rediscover Catholicism**. With every topic I am learning something I was not aware of.

For instance, Mother Teresa came from a wealthy family and she worked timelessly for the needy until the last day of her life.

Our Pope John Paul II was the 264th Bishop of Rome, but in 1981 was shot by an anti-Catholic. He survived thanks to Our Lord Jesus. How many people do I know who will benefit from reading this book? This whole congregation, actually the future of our Catholic Church

is in our hands. Those who are leaving the Catholic Church will never belong to the universal Catholic Church. God's Church! Sincerely, J.C

Hello J.C., thank you for writing to us and to all who are now reading this. It encourages all of us to keep learning and growing in our faith and that it is NEVER too late to do so. Yes, there is so much to learn about the Catholic faith and what a Genius Faith it is!!! We are very happy for you here at St. Dismas Guild. Keep up the great work. Continue to pray and study the bible and keep holding hands with Jesus and Mother Mary, I believe that's why God gave us two hands. Blessings...

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St. Dismas Staff, Greetings in the saving name of Jesus! I am not Catholic, but I am a baptized Christian. However, I am interested in the Catholic faith.

It is clear to me that Christ established only ONE church, not hundreds of different ones. So, I am searching for that ONE true church, and I am interested in investigating the claims of the Catholic Church as being the church Christ founded. That being said, I would like to request any books, bible studies, etc. that will aid me in my study and in my search for the church Jesus founded. Thank you for your ministry and thank you in advance for any material you are able to send. God Bless! Sincerely, C.E.

Dear C.E., yes, you are correct... "If we wish to locate the Church founded by Jesus, we need to locate the ONE that has the four chief marks or qualities of His Church. The Church we seek must be ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC, and APOSTOLIC.

The Church Is ONE (Rom. 12:5, 1 Cor. 10:17, 12:13, CCC 813–822) Jesus established only ONE Church, not a collection of differing churches (Lutheran, Baptist, Anglican, and so on). The Bible says the Church is the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:23–32). Jesus can have but ONE spouse, and His spouse is the Catholic Church.

His Church also teaches just ONE set of doctrines, which must be the same as those taught by the apostles (Jude 3). This is the unity of belief to which Scripture calls us (Phil. 1:27, 2:2)." – From Catholic Answers Tracts - <https://www.catholic.com/tract/pillar-of-fire-pillar-of-truth>

We encourage you to participate in the daily Bible Study lessons and read the Catechism of the Catholic Church that we sent to you.

You are also welcomed to request a Mentor or send us Faith-based questions for Fr. Rich, who can help you in regard to scripture verses, bible study lessons or catechism concerns.

We are keeping you, and all who are truly seeking a personal relationship with our Lord, in our prayers that the Holy Spirit will lead you straight into His arms and you will know you are home. God bless you...

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION W/FR. RICH

"Some people talk about the cruelty to animals and say we shouldn't eat meat. Is it a sin to eat meat because of this cruelty?"

In Genesis, God gave man plants and animals to eat. Jesus declared all foods clean from the Mosaic prohibitions. If folks don't want to eat meat, they can choose not to, but I won't be shamed by their saying it's cruel to the animals when God gave them to us for food.

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCH'S DEDICATION FOR OCT. 2019:

The Month of October is dedicated to the **Rosary**. The practice of the **Rosary** dates back to 1106 when Mary reportedly appeared to St. Dominic and gave him the **Rosary** as a weapon against the heretics of the time. Saints and Popes have extolled the devotion to the **Holy Rosary**.



THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF OCT. 2019: Evangelization – Holy Spirit

- That the breath of the Holy Spirit engender a new missionary "spring" in the church.

PRO-LIFE

WHAT GIVES US HUMAN DIGNITY AND WORTH?

Are we inherently valuable because we are human, or are there certain qualities (like appearance) that make some of us more valuable than others?

In America in the 1800's, a slave was not considered a person. Oh yes, intellectually, everyone knew that a slave was a biological member of the human race – but that was not enough. Instead of having inherent worth, a slave was denied rights. Similarly, Hitler exterminated thousands of the mentally and physically 'unfit' before turning on millions of gypsies, homosexuals and Jews.

Are you a valuable human being? Are you worthy of life and rights? If so, why? Is it because of your age? Your appearance? Your size? Your intelligence? Your success in life? The amount of money you have? Your race? Your gender? Your capabilities?

Or is it because you are a human being?

If you have inherent worth simply because you are a living human and not because of external characteristics, then what of a preborn baby?

Abortion is wrong for the same reasons as slavery and other human rights violations are wrong--- because it victimizes a human being with inherent worth and dignity. ~ www.Pro-LifeArticles.org

Call to Action

- TELL a Friend about our Free Bibles, Bible Study workbooks and Newsletters.
- START a Bible Study group.
- SEND US your Testimony and tell us How God Is Working in your Life!
- FORGIVE
- PRAY
- CHANGE A VICE INTO A VIRTUE

"Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and establish the work of our hands; yes, establish the work of our hands!" Psalm 90:17

We enjoy and appreciate receiving every letter. Thank you for your encouraging words, your appreciation and TESTIMONIES. It is a blessing to so many people.

Blessings to you, from all of us here at St. Dismas Guild...