



St. Dismas Guild

January 2020

“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

STILL CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE!!!

Last year we sent, Free of Charge, 1,611 Packages & 51,878 Newsletters, thanks to our generous supporters.

We are currently in over 800 prison facilities across the United States.

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



TESTIMONY

Hi, I am writing you because I appreciate the literature you’ve sent me, and I have to learn more. About me, the proper term for what I am is a pedophile. It’s only recently that I’ve become honest with what I am and who I am, due to my charges. And people abuse me, they hit me and spit on me, call me names, and I understand how they feel. I know I am scum.

I prayed to my Lord to take these urges away from me. I hate who I am, and I wish I wasn’t this way. I pled guilty to my charges and I’ll always be known. Sometimes I read the Bible and I pray the Rosary. I always wear a Rosary around my neck. I pray to the Virgin Mary for help.

My question is - - **do you think I can ever be forgiven? Can somebody like me be forgiven?** I can’t even have contact with my own kids. Do you have any advice for me? I’m hurting inside. Thank you. J.M

Dear J.M., I speak to you of repentance, forgiveness, temptation, identity, and consequence of sin. Yes, absolutely God will forgive you IF YOU REPENT OF YOUR SINS AND ARE SORRY, even though the temptations may remain! God will forgive; society, other prisoners, and those offended may not.

*Acknowledge the misdeed and the continuing temptation in your life. You have done that in your letter. **We are men and women in Christ, NOT our sins unless we choose to give over to them and identify ourselves by them with the intention of committing them again. The reestablishment of your identity as a child of God and not “pedophile” is part of the gift of forgiveness.***

Still, the consequences of sin remain. The damage done to others through sexual abuse will affect their future sexual development. For them, as for you, there is hope in Christ. Since the temptation to commit pedophilia is known to be so strong, your children and future grandchildren may be isolated from you, at least unto adulthood.

*In the prison system are others who find it easier to judge another rather than to face their own misdeeds, thus your current suffering from them. You have a repentant heart. Confess your sins to the priest. Receive the absolution. Make your act of contrition to God. Do the prescribed penance, knowing that conversion from this sin is a lifetime walk with your Savior, Jesus Christ. Bless you in your faith... **Acts 3:19 “Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...”***

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St. Dismas Guild, A few months ago, I came across a discarded copy of Cycle C of the **Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study** by **Deacon Ken and Marie Finn**. Immediately I could see the quality of this course and I’ve enjoyed reviewing the weekly lessons ever since!

I was unexpectedly pleased to discover the fact that this program is not the typical “multiple guess” bible study nor is it another generic “fill-in-the blank” word search that we see all too often disseminated by the plethora of multi-denominational ministries that court the prison population. I especially appreciate the unique format that is structured

around our Sunday Lectionary readings. It breaks down the message into insightful questions and further referenced related verses beyond the scope of the designated text. In addition, the authors include a well-written commentary on each reading.

On the whole, I highly recommend this curriculum to anyone who seriously desires a deeper understanding of Scripture and an enriched experience of the liturgy. Please send me a copy of Cycle “A” so I may continue this path of edification through the upcoming new church year. God Bless, B.H.

*You’re right B.H., it is not a generic Bible Study. This workbook is to help you build a relationship with God the father, the son, and the Holy Spirit. You didn’t just FIND the bible study, God directed you to it because HE wants to teach and direct you in HIS ways. The simple message is – God Loves You and wants to fill the hole in your heart that you may have been filling with drugs, alcohol, pornography, food, etc. He Thirsts for you to come and Love Him so He can heal you... because He tells us in His word; **“He who obeys the commandment ...is the man who loves me...” John 14:21.** Obedience and Love go together. As you dive into this Bible Study remember what Jesus said to His disciples, the **“Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will instruct you in everything and remind you of all that I told you...” John 14:26.** God bless you in your relationship with the Lord.*

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Dear St. Dismas Guild, Thank you for the information you have sent me. I don’t know how or why you blessed me, but I read all the time, five to ten hours a day. I’ve been doing it for many years now. Also, I’m an ex-gang member, in the junior Mafia. I found our church in jail. I was 17 years old. That is the age I first prayed the Rosary and the age I received Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion. I was Baptized during Benedict XVI’s reign as Vicar.

I’m somewhat well read, although I am a peasant and never got a GED, I read the Bible, Catechism of the Catholic Church and True Devotion to Mary. I read the first thing every morning from the Missal. I learned that many are called, but few are chosen. We have to have merit and good deeds to make it to Heaven. Mercy is cool, but once you learn you have a responsibility to use your wisdom. Trees are judged by their fruits...

I love Mary. I pray the Rosary all day. I love God. He saved my soul and gave me Love and Mercy not only in the Heavenly Court but the County Court too. Justice won! I’ve been attending Church and I’ve been walking with God almost twenty years. God bless you and Mary love you. Sincerely K.R.

Dear K.R., these are the letters we Love to receive! It is great to hear how much you know God Loves you! Plus, it is an encouragement to all of us who so desperately want to be Loved. You have figured it out! All it takes is time and attention with God and we do that by reading/studying His Word, the teachings of the Church and of course by attending Mass with praise and worship in our hearts. Keep up the Great work. Blessings for the New Year.

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SDG

To our fellow Servants, As president of the **Saint Dismas Guild Prison Ministry** it is my mission to solve more problems than I create. Our team of volunteers, along with our small efficient staff, has dramatically increased the number of prison facilities that we serve in the U.S. **That increase has become the solvable problem.**

We have:

- **Increased** the number of prisons being served from **704 to 803** (from January 2019)
- **3,173 Inmates** receive our monthly newsletter which inspires them and encourages them to give their life to "knowing, loving and serving God...and no other"
- **1,656 others** outside of the prison walls who are the "**Prayer and support Partners**" also receive the monthly newsletter.
- **1,489 Email Newsletter.** (Please send us your email if you'd like to be added to this mailing.)
- We have added **704 new facilities** to our **database** outreach to receive the Monthly Newsletter.
- **99 New facilities** have already requested our **free Catholic Bible Study** and other materials.
- **25 New Chaplains** have reached out to us for more information in the last **4 months.**

The Saint Dismas Guild is blessed to be answering the prayers of the incarcerated who turned to God in their desperate situation and reached out for our hand.... your hand.... a helping hand. They are the "**harvest**" ...we cannot ignore working in the fields, as we have done **for over 30 years.** Will you help us with **your inspired financial support?**

Our Costs:

- \$2,000 – Monthly Newsletter Printing & Distribution
- \$1,000 – Monthly Shipping/Boxes/Tape/Books
- \$500 – Monthly Office Rent & Utilities
- \$100 – 25 English Bibles
- \$25 – 1 Inmate package (Bible, Bible Study workbook, Basic Catechism, Pamphlets and Prayer Cards + shipping)

Will you also **pray for our spiritual protection** as we work hard to wrestle for the souls of the inmates who have known much darkness...but now are starting to see much light? **Solution: Contact us at your earliest convenience, either by mail, email, or donate online.** We are real servants of God... **with real attainable goals...** and an ongoing mission to dramatically improve the lives of many. God bless you for all that you do in HIS Holy name, Deacon Mitch

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

"In the Old Testament the authors state that God commanded the Israelites to slaughter entire civilizations. This is a different God than the one Jesus portrays in the New Testament. So, were the authors of the O.T. incorrect as to what God was saying to or wanted from the Israelites?" J.A.

*Dear J.A., Scripture's first sense is the situation in time. All life belongs to God; He can allow conception or call life back to Himself. God wished to establish His people in the land He chose for them to **worship Him alone.** He knew their weakness in associating with tribes who worshiped false gods. God also knew that if the other tribes were not killed, they would gather again to destroy the chosen people.*

With the arrival of the Jews as the enemies of the people already there, the pagan tribes could flee before the

*fight. If not, they would be killed. They in turn would kill the Jews if they had the chance. This was the situation of the ancient world. Thus, **the Jews were to destroy the people who did not flee, tear down their altars, drive out the mediums and fortunetellers, destroy all pagan cults, priests, priestesses, temples. They were forbidden to intermarry with pagans who might lead them to false worship.***

*The evidence is clear that the Jews did NOT do this and fell into false worship which is called apostasy. Solomon the wise, was not so wise when he built pagan temples for his wives. **The Jews worshiped false gods on the mountains, lost faith in the true God, made peace with the inhabitants of the land, intermarried, all against God's admonition. Thus, the Jews fell away and were deported to Assyria first and Babylon later before God allowed their return to Jerusalem.***

*It does indeed seem cruel to you and me, who live in a 2020 world with laws the U.N., etc., but it was a "kill or be killed" world back then. **God established His people to receive Jesus.** With the advent of the Messiah, the world began to change. Yet it still holds vestiges of hate and murder that we see in the Middle East in 2020. Read Psalm 106...*

"And you shall consume all the peoples that the LORD your God will give over to you. Your eye shall not pity them, neither shall you serve their gods, for that would be a snare to you." Deuteronomy 7:16

PRO-LIFE

A "Difficult Choice" Advocates of abortion often refer to the decision to have an abortion as a "difficult choice." Why is it a difficult choice? The reason is very simple and obvious. We all know that the unborn child is a person growing inside the mother's womb. So, of course, it is "difficult". Choosing to terminate the life of another human being is a "difficult choice". If the unborn child was not a person, what would be so difficult about choosing to end his or her life?

Is killing a cancer growing inside your body a "difficult choice"? Of course not. Dehumanizing the child is a vital strategy used by pro-abortionists to disguise the "difficult choice" that is being made. The baby is made to appear like the invading "blob of tissue"----like a cancerous growth.

Why do we allow such deceit and victimization of the pre-born? Can you find a more innocent or vulnerable human being than a precious baby boy or girl inside his/her mother's womb? *Pro-Life Articles*

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCH'S DEDICATION FOR JAN. The month of January is dedicated to the **Holy Name of Jesus**, which is celebrated on January 3. The first twelve days of January fall during the liturgical season known as **Christmas** which is represented by the liturgical color white — the color of light, a symbol of Joy, Purity and Innocence (absolute or restored). The remaining days of January are the beginning of **Ordinary Time**, which is represented by the liturgical color green, the symbol of Hope, of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the Hope of a glorious resurrection. catholicculture.org

I AM ALPHA & OMEGA
Christ teacher
THE WORD MASTER
the almighty SON
LORD OF Saviors OF MAN
HEALER OF LORDS mediator comfortor
ADVOCATE rock
messiah Jesus
ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

May the New Year bring you Faith, Hope, and Charity in all that you say and do...

St. Dismas Guild staff