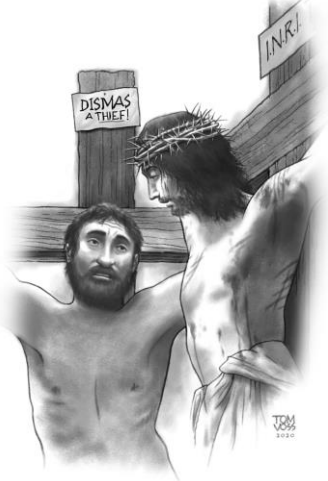


St. Dismas Guild
P.O. Box 2129
Escondido, CA 92033

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St. Dismas Guild ~ Prison Ministry

“Lord, when did I see you ...in prison, and not help you?” Matt. 25:44

St. Dismas Guild is a nonprofit organization which provides Catholic Bibles and Bible Studies, free of charge, to inmates. Donations can be made on our website or by mail, (details at the bottom of this Newsletter). Please be a partner and sponsor an inmate each month.

July 2020

TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, first off, I want to thank you for all that you all do for those of us who are forgotten. Four years ago, I left the Church and converted to Islam and it was a dark four years. As one of my Catholic brothers told me, I had turned my back on Jesus. Somewhere around October of last year I started feeling the pull of Jesus, so I prayed to Jesus for the first time in four years. I talked to Him like an old friend and I asked for clear signs on my next move. I received my signs and in November I was moved to another prison. When I arrived, I found out that there was no Catholic service and only two confirmed Catholics at this prison.

I knew then what my next move was, so I went to work. I visited the Chaplain many times and wrote many letters for help and I prayed a lot! Here it is almost four months later, and we have a priest who is about to start having Mass for us, and our community has grown to 11 Confirmed Catholics and two brothers who are looking to join the Church. All praise to God! We still need a lot of help and prayer, but I feel as if Jesus showed me my job and I think He would say now “Well done my son.”

I also had help from a few beloved people, St. Erasmus, St. Teresa “The Little Flower”, St. Anthony of Padua and, most of all, our Mother Mary. She appeared to me in a dream and brought me so much peace and strength to keep going when I wanted to give up. Once again, thank you and May God bless you always.

I would also like to know if you could send me a Catechism, a prayer book, and a list of any other materials you offer. Also, I would like to know if someone would be willing to correspond with me for help on my spiritual journey. I used to write to someone there, but we lost touch when I left the Church. Thank you again, and May God Bless you all for all you do. With Love in Christ, A.B.

Dear A.B., “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us ...persevere in running the race that lies before us...” Hebrews 12:1.

Under the heading, “A Cloud of Witnesses,” the Catechism of Catholic Church says, “Their intercession is their most exalted service to God’s plan.” Section 2683. The intercession of the saints and dream of Our Lady happened for a reason. “For I know well the plans I have in mind for you” Jeremiah 29:1. Through your persistence and prayers, God has formed a new community of believers and has gifted you with a Priest to bring the sacraments. Well done indeed! But your job is not done yet and it won’t be easy. Persevere in prayer, call on the Saints and pray for the brother who guided you back to the faith. And take advantage of the Bible Study, prayer book and Catechism books that we sent to you. This is the best way to grow deeper in your relationship with the Lord.

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St. Dismas Guild staff, I have been reading your newsletter for a long time. I grew up in a Pentecostal home and after I left home, I also left the religion, getting involved with the occult. Now I realize I was searching for God, who I never found in my childhood religion. I mistakenly assumed it was not to be found in any Christian religion. I met a Christian brother several years ago and he took time and answered questions and taught me to pray the Rosary. I’ve learned and believe the Catholic Church is the One True Church.

There is not much here for Catholics, but I plan on finding a church when I get released in a few years and then I’ll take classes to become confirmed. Meanwhile, I continue to pray and try to learn as much as I can by reading my Bible. I believe God and His Son understand my situation and still hear my prayers. I would like to continue to learn. If possible, could you send me a catechism and prayer cards and anything else that may help me grow in faith. Thank you for all you do and may God, Our Father, and His Son bless you. Sincerely, R.L.

Dear R.L., Truly God has opened your mind and heart to the grace of the Holy Spirit to come and know His True Catholic Church. “I asked that your minds be opened, to see His light so that you will know what is the Hope to

which He has called you, how rich are the wonderful blessing as he promises is people, and how very great is His power at work in us who believe" Ephesians 1:18-19

You have been saved through faith by God's grace not as a result of your own effort but by God's gift so that no one can boast of it. Read Ephesians.2:8-10.

God is giving you this opportunity to learn the Catholic faith and become one in His body with His church. Like all different parts of our body fit together held by every joint work as one. So, it is with His church The Rock and Foundation, "laid by the apostles and prophets, the cornerstone being Jesus Christ Himself. He is the one who holds the whole building together and makes it grow into a sacred temple dedicated to the Lord. In union with Him you too are being built together with all the others into a place where God lives through His Spirit." Ephesians 2:20-22.

May God bless and guide you on this new journey trusting in His Spirit to keep you strong and pray that Christ will be rooted in your heart through your faith in Him.

"To him by means of His power working in us is able to do much more than we can ever ask or even think of. To God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time forever and ever Amen". Eph.3:20-21

May God's truth always be alive in your heart. Read Prov.7:1-3. God bless...

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

In the preface of the NAB it says that the first eleven chapters "have been borrowed from creation-flood stories attested in Mesopotamia literature of the second and early first millennia." Is this true?

The introductions to each of the books that you cited in your letter are NOT the Bible, rather they are attempts at showing some understanding of how situations in time, experiences even of non-believers show some similarities. These introductions to each chapter are attempts to explain POSSIBLE historical contexts.

Read the bible and let the Holy Spirit speak to you, just as I ask Him to teach me the bible every day. The introductions give me some opinions, but the words of the Bible give me God's truth: His Word to my soul.

Genesis shows that God created everything out of nothing.

~ He set the days and the nights.

~ He created the stars (because other religions believed the stars were gods).

~ He created all living creatures (which other religions worshiped as gods).

~ His crown of creation is man and woman in His image and likeness, different from animals who exist, move, have feelings.

~ Man, however, like God has an intellect, the ability to take in information and comprehend it, and a will, the ability to make a decision and to put it into effect.

God guides and instructs man in everything beginning with the commandment be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it, eat from the tree of life, do not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil on your own.

God will show what is right and wrong.

PRO-LIFE

Protesters Speak for the Silent... A woman recently wrote a letter to the editor to the protesters of abortions saying, "Don't you dare tell me what I can and can't do with my body."

We protesters will not say a word if she wants to cut off her own leg, her arm, or her ear. (We may wonder why.) Yes, that is her body to do with what she pleases.

But the baby she is carrying in her womb is an individual little human being with its own heart, arms, legs, mind and soul. This baby would ask "Why do you want to kill me?" But as yet can't speak for himself or herself. **We are, therefore, speaking up for them.**

When a woman has an abortion, she is not stopping her heart from beating or her lungs from breathing or her mind from thinking. Her body remains whole. Her baby's body does not. The baby is dead. *Ruth Weber, Davenport Iowa*

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR JULY: ...is to

The Precious Blood of Jesus.

The entire month falls within the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green. This 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. It is used in the offices and Masses of Ordinary Time.

www.catholicculture.org



A Powerful Prayer to be Said Before Praying

"Almighty Father, I place the Precious Blood of Jesus before my lips before I pray, that my prayers may be purified before they ascend to Your divine altar." – St. Mary Magdalen de Pazzi

Feast Days: July 3rd – **St. Thomas the Apostle**, patron saint Against doubt, architects, and construction workers, **July 6th** – **St. Maria Goretti**, patron saint of rape victims, loss of parents, and young people in general, **July 22nd** – **St. Mary Magdalene**, patron saint of contemplative life, converts, and penitent sinners, **July 31st** – **St. Ignatius of Loyola**, patron saint of Jesuits, retreats, and soldiers.

+++++

We have been offering our prayers, fasting, and sacrifices for **Healing in our Church**. It came to me in mass the other day that we, the faithful, are suffering a tremendous amount these days and that through this suffering God can Heal our Church. We must continue to offer up All our suffering for this endeavor and be joyfilled that we are a part of His Kingdom, here and now... Please join us in this battle.

Keeping all our volunteers, benefactors, and inmates who write to us, in our prayers.

"Eternal Father, I offer You the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ in atonement for my sins, and in supplication for the holy souls in Purgatory and for the needs of Holy Church." – The Raccolta

Encouraging you to participate in our **Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study workbook**, currently in Cycle A.

Let the Peace of Christ be with you always,
St. Dismas Guild

St. Dismas Guild: 501(c)(3) non-profit organization ~ PO Box 2129 Escondido CA 92033

Evangelization through Scripture and Ministry to prisons. ~ www.stdismasguild.org

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