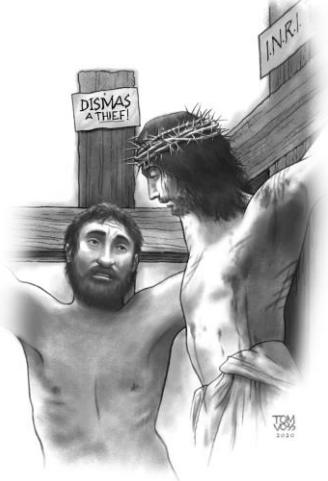


St. Dismas Guild
P.O. Box 2129
Escondido, CA 92033

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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.

June 2020

TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, I was 34 years old when my life changed. It was also the day a lot of other lives changed in my family and in the V family. It happened in the morning of October 2014. I had accidentally run over a man but kept going because I didn't know that I had done that. That is why I'm in prison at the moment. I wasn't a lawbreaker. Out in the world I worked for a living and supported my family. At times I sit back and wonder why this terrible thing had to happen to us?

The Lord is the only one that can answer that. The Bible speaks about my crime in Exodus 21:13 and Numbers 35:11 and in Deuteronomy 19:4 “The City of Refuge”.

I've lost a lot while here in prison. I lost my dad, my brother and my girl, but that's nothing compared to what the V family lost. I just pray that the Lord may soften their hearts and they can forgive me one day.

I was raised in a Catholic home but as I got older, I started pulling more and more away from God. Don't get me wrong, I still read the Bible here and there, but I was living a life of sin and would really only call on God when I needed something or when things weren't going well.

I started reading the Bible every day when I was in the county jail, sometimes three times a day. I still read the Bible here in prison. It's the first thing I do with my cup of coffee. I look forward to it every morning. I also pray the rosary before I read the Word.

Now that I read the Bible the way I do I feel more at peace within myself and I have a lot more patience. I can also feel the change that Jesus is doing in my life. I would always feel that God was punishing me for something I did in my life that's why I'm in prison. But now I see that God's not punishing me for sending me here, He is saving me, making me the man that He wants me to be. “A son of God.” God bless... Sincerely, M.G.

Dear M.G., It is good you are reading the bible. It is your blueprint for life. One of the good things about reading the bible is it helps us to see areas where we fall short of the glory of God. It certainly brings us into

repentance which is the key to receiving the forgiveness God longs to give us. Continue as you are doing and pray for the gifts of the Spirit. And always pray for the Holy Spirit to teach you what He wants you to know. Remember, “Faith, then, comes through hearing, and what is heard is the word of God.” Romans 10:17 Your faith is growing as you read and ponder God's Word. Along with your bible the Catechism of the Catholic Church helps you to stay under headship. Jesus was under headship and so do we need to be under headship (1 Corinthians 11:3). Even if you do not receive the forgiveness from the family you offended know that God forgives you and He is the one who sees your heart, we look at appearances. God bless you and know we will be praying for you.

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear Saint Dismas Guild, I have been in prison for 13 years. I have spent thousands of hours studying the bible. I learn everyday more about God's Word, because He is the only one who can help us in moments of Truth. To keep ahead I have learned that we must not just read the bible but obey the ten commandments and put in to practice our Faith and keep growing, progressing each day. Giving the best that we can. I would like to share my thoughts about the present “Corona Virus” and what I hope will come of it.

In my native country of Mexico, I observed the many injustices of life. I saw people work hard all their lives and when their lives were over, they could not even afford a funeral or a cemetery plot. Other people are extremely wealthy. Some of them struck it rich in music or entertainment, others inherit their money. They buy huge homes, fancy cars, yachts and even wear gold chains and own private planes.

The poor cannot afford to send their children to college to get an education, so the cycle of poverty is not broken. The native people are even worse off. They often live on the streets and die of hunger, cold, or because they get sick and can't afford a doctor.

So now Corona Virus arrives. We all know God has the power to end it in a moment. But perhaps He chooses

not to because He wants to give all those who have millions of dollars the opportunity to share some of their wealth and a chance to save their souls. *Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect,* go, sell what you have and give to [the] poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."* (Matt. 19:21) A chance to return to God and not just worship money. A chance to help the needy that they ignore. People have forgotten that all that we have is from God. *"Otherwise, you might say in your heart, 'It is my own power and the strength of my own hand that has got me this wealth.' Remember then the LORD, your God, for He is the one who gives you the power to get wealth..."* (Deut. 8:17-18). Let us pray for all who have died or lost a loved one to the Corona Virus. May God grant them eternal life. Thank you for reading my message. Sincerely, G.L.

Dear G.L., You are right, God could end this pandemic in a moment. Perhaps God has allowed this to occur in order to draw people back to the faith, to give those who have much the opportunity to help those who have little. As it says in Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." Your time studying the bible has given you great wisdom. You are correct, we must not just read scripture but go out and live it. And even when life sends us difficulties, we must not lose our joy. As it says in, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice Always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." As you leave prison and return to everyday life, we pray that you will go out and be an example of God's Love and Mercy and continue the Bible Study. We will keep you in our prayers and continue to pray for all the victims of the Corona Virus and an end of this pandemic. Thank you for writing to us.

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SDG

A word from Deacon Mitch... If you and I could sit together and talk to one another, one of the things I might ask you is; "when did you learn how to fight"? A typical answer might be, "at a pretty young age."

Leading you a little further into the conversation...I would probably ask you if you are a "good" fighter. Meaning, "do you win, more than you lose?" Many of you might answer with a little smile on your face... "I can take care of myself!"

Then I would ask you a very difficult question to answer... are you afraid of "anybody or anything?" If you answered, "nobody or nothing"! I would ask you to reconsider your answer. Covid-19 is creeping around the world like a thief in the night, taking lives all over the world. It "somehow" finds its way into all communities.

Covid-19 does not care if you are rich or poor, educated or not, young or old, in jail or out. Covid-19 can knock you out of life very quickly and with very little warning. If you want to win this fight against an enemy that you can't see, you can't smell, and you never know where he is lurking... you need to do two important things. The first is to follow all the instructions about keeping the deadly germs off of you and others by cleaning your hands a lot and wearing a filtering mask as often as possible. The next thing is to give your entire life and its future to our Lord Jesus Christ, simply by saying, "Jesus I trust in you" ...and mean it!

We at Saint Dismas Guild Prison Ministry are here to help you know Jesus better. Write us a letter letting us know you are alive and where you are at. We will make sure you get some information that will turn your life towards Jesus... now and forever. Knowing Jesus is worth fighting for. And soon you will be able to say, "I don't have to take care of myself, by myself because **Jesus takes**

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

care of me, every second of every day, for all eternity!" Amen?

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

A NEW WORLD RESET... More than 2,000 years ago the Grand Reset for the world was accomplished when Jesus the Son of God came into the world and established the new covenant to:

- Free us from affection and acts of sin.
- Transform us into His image through the Eucharist.
- Clothe us with immortality on the last day to live forever in heaven.

The Grand Reset for humanity, the Gospel and Covenant, has not reached the souls of all human beings. They've never heard it. For those who have heard it and received it, the reset may not be given much thought because of other habits developed for life in this world with its demands, its promises, its successes and the ROUTINES of worldly activity which obscure the Grand Reset.

Before COVID my prayer life already was part of the daily routine. The effects of social distancing may be painful in the disruption of routine, but they have some good side effects...

The laity may be bored, but now has come an opportunity for a return to the Grand Reset for the pope, cardinals, bishops, priests, deacons, religious, lay Catholics in politics and the less powerful ones, believer and non-believer.

The discoveries initially will be painful for those who are concerned with worldly things; JOY will follow if one allows the Grand Reset to come to the forefront of the mind and the soul. For those already in the routine of the Grand Reset, JOY will increase.

Pray a scriptural rosary. Read the bible to your children and grandchildren. Get a simple catechism and study it with your family. Rediscover life, family, and loved ones in the way that Jesus brought it to us. *John 14:27 — Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you; not as the world gives peace. Do not let your hearts be troubled.*

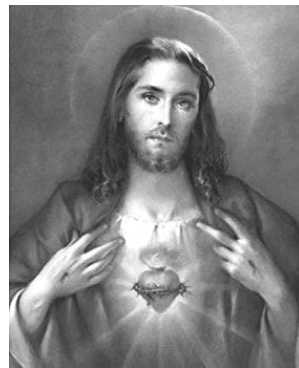
The rediscovery of faith and the Grand Reset are the real solution to the discovery of a new life and JOY in Jesus Christ.

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR JUNE: ...is to

The Sacred Heart of Jesus. This 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



Feast Days – June 7th – Trinity Sunday, June 14th – The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, June 19th – The Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 20th – The Immaculate Heart of Mary, June 24th – The Birth of St. John the Baptist, June 29th – Peter and Paul.

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Stay strong in Body, Mind and Spirit...

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

Peace of Christ, St. Dismas Guild

