

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

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St. Dismas Guild ~ Prison Ministry

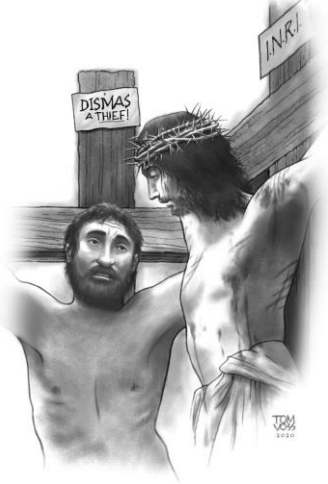
“Lord, when did I see you ...in prison, and not help you?” Matt. 25:44

St. Dismas Guild is a nonprofit organization which provides Catholic Bibles and Bible Study workbooks, etc., free of charge, to inmates.

Donations can be made on our website www.StDismasGuild.org or by mail, PO Box 2129, Escondido, CA, 92033.

Please consider sponsoring an inmate each month.

December 2020



TESTIMONY

Dear St Dismas Guild, first and foremost, thank you for the newsletter all these years. It has been a long journey. I figured that I would share my story with you and if you choose to print it I would be honored.

It starts out in the summer of 1999, I was a young boy, not yet a man at age 20. I had no respect for women or money, I didn't even pray. I was raised going to church but only went to keep from getting a spanking. After I got my time (30 years ago) I totally quit caring. I would fight, buy books with girly pictures just to have something to do. Yes, I felt it was wrong, but I did not care. As time went by each year, I lost a family member. In 2007, I was challenged to try college and at the same time I was invited to a Catholic service on my unit. I went to church and felt the COMFORT and LOVE of Christ. My mind was at ease. I took the college entrance exam and passed with flying colors. I have now grown mature in life and in God (the Word). I have even been placed as the Catholic coordinator on five different units out of eight that I've been on. I share your newsletter each month with friends here inside the prison and give them words of encouragement. I now tutor, mentor, and guide people to Christ Jesus as He sees fit to use me as a vessel. These 20+ years have been a great life changer and it was done only by HIS GRACE and LOVE.

I made parole back in February and I am now in a program to transition, my prison thinking back to being free from these earthly bonds.

Thank you for all your support and letters, they are a blessing. **My advice to those who read your newsletters, Keep the Faith and Pray Daily and Thank HIM for the answers even if they haven't happened yet.** He knows the desires of your heart.

May God bless you all, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. R.F.

Good advice R.F., What a beautiful conversion story of God's precious grace touching you at the Church service you went to. He sees your heart and transforms your mind as you opened the door of your heart to receive His love for

you. There are many people out there that do not care anymore. They are tired as you were. “Though young men faint and grow weary, and youths stagger and fall, they who hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles' wings....” Isaiah 40:30-31 It sounds like that is where you are now. Thank you for sharing. God bless you.

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Hello St. Dismas Guild Staff, Thank you very much. I received the bible study that starts at the end of the month. Even today while looking over and reviewing the 31st Sunday of Ordinary time. The recollection of a simple question asking me, **“What is the will of God...”** and your study pointing to **(1 Thes. 5:18) “To be thankful in all circumstances...”** made an astonishing impact on my day. With a big smile and a gentle spirit not a rod. I said to a companion. Do you know what the will of God is? To be thankful in all circumstances. I replied with a big smile on my face. This bible study has become my shield in prison. It is helping me so much. Blessed be God forever. Praise to Our Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth. I praise you Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth. Thank you. D.C.

Dear D.C., You say the bible study has become a shield in prison. It sounds like you are putting on the armor of God and holding up the shield of faith to ward off the fiery darts of the evil one. Continue to do the study, and as you say be thankful in all circumstances and “In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”(Eph. 6:16) We are in a battle. Satan is roaming around looking to see who he can devour. Resist him and he will flee, and always remember, “You belong to God, children, and you have conquered them, for the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” 1 John 4:4 You resist Satan as you come to know Jesus personally through the Word of God. For it is He who has conquered Satan from the cross. You have lifted our spirits with your letter and enthusiasm over the bible study. God bless you.

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Dear St. Dismas Guild, I have been utilizing your Catholic Bible Study for some time now and **I cannot praise this Bible Study enough!** Currently, I am the Liturgy Music Clerk in our Catholic Chapel and this study has been invaluable both for my work and for the deepening of my faith. Understanding my faith is what this Bible Study gift does for me. Thank you so much for leading me. I look forward for the new Cycle B edition. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention. May God Bless and Keep You, R.C.

Dear R.C., **“Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.” Romans 10:17** You are thanking us for leading you, but it is not us leading you. It is Jesus leading you as you follow in His footsteps. **The Holy Spirit guides and directs you and reminds you of all Jesus said and did. (John 14:26)** Your life has been made new through the Word of God. Praise God.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

Examination of Conscious... Ask yourself these questions each evening before going to bed.

- #1. What people has Jesus brought into my life today?
- #2. What situations has Jesus allowed me to confront?
- #3. How did I allow Jesus to work through me?
- #4. How did I get in His way?

PRO-LIFE

Abortion and Poverty/Crime...

“Abortion advocates often argue that the unborn babies of poor mothers are better off aborted, and abortion reduces the crime rate. However, the truth is that the violence of abortion has begot more violence and crime, not less. The pro-choice people have had more than 47 years to weed out all the "unwanted children" yet, we have more child abuse, more spousal abuse, more deadbeat dads, more gangs, more drugs, more homelessness and more crime.

The list goes on and on.

By stating that the children of poor people are less entitled to have their lives protected than those of the rich, the writer is plainly of the view that the economic status of a family should be what determines whether children are worthy to be born or not. Laws against robbery and drug-dealing might impact the poor more than the rich, but that does not prevent us from passing and enforcing them. The reason is simple: Robbery and drug dealing, like abortion, is wrong, regardless of the socio-economic class of hypothetical people who might commit these activities.

The solution to poverty is not found in killing the children of the poor. We have been doing that since 1973. Our experience proves that it clearly does not work. Killing poor children is only the solution of "choice" for wealthy elitists. Perhaps a hidden agenda is at work here.”

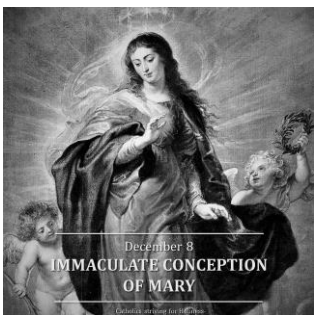
Pro-Life Articles.org

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR DECEMBER:

“...is dedicated to the **Immaculate Conception**, which is ordinarily celebrated on December 8 but since it falls on a

Sunday, the feast has been transferred to December 9. The first 24 days of December fall during the liturgical season known as **Advent** and are represented by the liturgical color purple — a symbol of penance, mortification, and the sorrow of a contrite heart. The remaining days of December



mark the beginning of the **Christmas** season. The liturgical color changes to white or gold — a symbol of joy, purity and innocence.” (catholicculture.org)

A Few FEAST DAYS:

Dec. 8th – Immaculate Conception of Mary – The Immaculate Conception is a dogma of the Catholic Church which states that the Virgin Mary was free of original sin from the moment of her conception.

Dec. 9th – Juan Diego, On December 9, 1531, when Juan was on his way to morning Mass, the Blessed Mother appeared to him on Tepeyac Hill, she told him to climb the hill and to pick the flowers that he would find in bloom. He obeyed, and although it was wintertime, he found roses blooming. He gathered the flowers and took them to Our Lady who carefully placed them in his mantle and told him to take them to the Bishop as "proof". When he opened his mantle, the flowers fell on the ground and there remained impressed, in place of the flowers, an image of the Blessed Mother, the apparition at Tepeyac.

Dec. 12th – Our Lady of Guadalupe, since 1531, Our Lady of Guadalupe, or the Dark Virgin, as she is often called, has become the patron saint of the Mexican Republic. Historically and emotionally, the Virgin is deeply woven into the life of every Mexican. During the wars of independence, she was the patroness of the Mexican armies. Almost every Mexican town has a church dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe. And people turn to her for help and guidance on every occasion. She is also referred to as the Patroness of the Americas.

Dec. 25th – Christmas, Today the Church celebrates the Birth of Jesus Christ, the first day in the octave of Christmas. The Christmas feast is a festival full of joy. The Eternal Word has become Man and dwells among us.

Dec. 27th – Feast of the Holy Family, This feast is a liturgical celebration in the Catholic Church in honor of Jesus of Nazareth, His mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and His foster father, Saint Joseph, as a family. The primary purpose of this feast is to present the Holy Family as a model for Christian families.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are excited to announce that Marie Finn, our cofounder, now has a new **Podcast** sharing her Gospel reflections with the **Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study** lessons at Magnificat website. The podcast begins with the 1st Sunday of Advent, Cycle B and will be posted each Monday. Please come check them out and share them with your family and friends. <https://magnificat-ministry.net/media/podcasts>

Marie encourages you to do all the readings on your own and then follow along. Download the lessons from stdismasguild.org or request a Bible Study workbook (**Cycle B is now available**), and you will grow even further in your faith and understanding of God’s love for you and be prepared for the upcoming readings at mass.

Also, our office will be closed for **Thanksgiving** and **Christmas** so our packages will be delayed by a few weeks.

The inmates would like to Thank All who send donations and sponsor them with free Catholic materials. We are all profoundly grateful for your support and prayers.



Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas,
St. Dismas Guild

