

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.

Consider sponsoring a new inmate each month with a recurring donation online.

January 2021



TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, Hi! I am currently residing in the Texas prison system. I have repented and gave my life to Jesus Christ in 2019. Before that I was a menace to society. I was running the streets getting what I wanted at any cost from anyone, without caring about consequences. My life was dedicated to the gang life, selling drugs, and fighting rival gangs. I have been in and out of prison for the past 16 years of my life. This is my fourth time being incarcerated. Now that I am locked up and tired of the way I was living, **I turned to God for an answer and comfort.**

In June of 2016, I was incarcerated, and I was involved in a notorious gang. At that time, I was tired and wanted out of the gang, for God, and there was only one way out. Blood in and Blood out! So, they beat me almost to death. It was eight guys who had shattered my eye socket and broke two of my ribs. I was rushed to the hospital with internal bleeding. I had three tubes stuck in my body because I was nearly dead.

After that situation it had opened my eyes that the flesh is no good, and if you don't have Christ in you, life is pointless. By September I was physically and mentally broke. I was lost and now found. **God had finally healed and revived me and given me a second chance of life.** I had a taste of God picking me up and shaping me and molding me to be the man I am today. As of right now, **I have fully given my life to God in His Word and am letting the Holy Spirit work in me.** If it wasn't for our Lord Jesus Christ, I would still be lost. But now I have been found by the Lord and He is the way of my life. At this point I am pursuing my bachelor's degree in Christian education at a bible college and seminary. *Exodus 14:14, "The Lord shall fight for me, and ye shall hold your peace." Luke 18:27, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."* Your Catholic Brother, M.N.

Dear M.N., thanks be to God you are alright and headed in the right direction now. I am sorry to say, for many of us,

it takes a dramatic event to wake us up and realize how far we are from God. He is ALWAYS there for us, but when we are in the dark, we just cannot see it or care to notice HIS LOVE and MERCY. Isn't it wonderful when we feel HIS light shining on us, we can see the way, see HIS path/plan for us and we have the strength to follow it? That reminds me of this verse, "But you are 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of HIS own, so that you may announce the praises' of HIM who called you out of darkness into HIS wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

God is calling us all into an intimate/personal LOVE relationship with HIM, and what a beautiful journey it is toward heaven when we finally fall in LOVE with HIM. God Bless your New Year...

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear Brothers and Sisters may Christ Jesus bless everyone through this time that we are facing during the pandemic. Trusting in the Lord will help us get through everything Satan throws our way, just keep the faith in Jesus Christ. As for myself, I am doing all right. I just wanted to bring to you a few encouraging words. I converted to Catholicism 4 1/2 years ago. And I have learned so much, but one of the difficulties I see is that Catholics face so much discrimination. I ask myself WHY??? And this has been a question I continue to ask. It must mean I am on the right path with Christ. I will follow my beliefs and study to strengthen my knowledge, and it has brought me so much peace in heart and mind. No matter how much hatred they have toward me, I will show them Love and Forgiveness because God shows us how to Love.

My reason for this letter is to request the Cycle B Bible Study...Also, if there is any other material, I can get to help me strengthen my wisdom in Jesus Christ, I would like to receive it. Thank you for your time and for everything you have done for me. May God bless everyone and keep them always safe. God Bless in Jesus Christ. A.L.

Dear A.L., You have a beautiful Christ-like attitude. *"...Love one another as I love you" John 15:12. Catholics and all traditional faiths are facing persecution*

all over the world. We live in a time when evil is good and good is evil. God and His laws are being rejected by society and we see the results all around us.

Cling to God. Learn your faith so you can give a good reason for what you believe. Continue to love those who do not love you.

“Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me.... Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.” Matthew 5:11-12

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

"Jesus loves you and so do I as a Catholic Christian - please correct me if I'm wrong - are we Christians or just Catholics? D. M.

We are Christian and Catholic both. The fullness of the faith subsists in the Catholic church. Other non-Catholic Christian ecclesial communities share a common baptism but not the fullness of Eucharist with us.

PRO-LIFE

“No law can give me the right to do what is wrong.”
President Abraham Lincoln

Stand Up For The Unborn - I remember reading an article about the U.S. birth rate that had dropped for the second year in a row and the birth rate that year set the lowest level in a century. The experts thought it may be because of the recession or it may be because of a decline in immigration to the United States.

Have they never heard of abortion??

Abortion kills approximately 4,000 babies in the womb each day. Can't they do the math and see how this decreases the population? We must not sit back and let innocent babies be killed. We are Americans! Whatever happened to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all?

Since when do we have the right to play God? To choose which baby lives or dies? We do not have that right. We must not sit back and let innocent babies be killed.

Please do not be indifferent to the plight of the unborn. We have lived with this crime of abortion way too long. Stand up for life. - Ruth Weber, Davenport Iowa - Pro-Life Articles.org

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR JANUARY:

“...is dedicated to the **Holy Name of Jesus**, which is

celebrated on January 3. The first ten 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

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

beginning 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. (catholicculture.org)

A Few FEAST DAYS:

Jan. 1st – Mary, Mother of God – Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, our Lady's greatest title.

Jan. 3rd – The Epiphany of the Lord – Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany. "The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power." With these words, the Church proclaims that today's feast brings to a perfect fulfillment all the purposes of Advent. Epiphany, therefore, marks the liturgical zenith of the Advent-Christmas season.

Jan. 10th – Baptism of the Lord – Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

Jan. 22nd – Prayer for the Unborn – “In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the RIGHT TO LIFE and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.”

Jan. 25th – Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle - (67 A.D.) Patron Saint of: Missions; Theologians; Gentile Christians. “In the long history of the Church no conversion has been more consequential than St. Paul’s. Paul had not been ambivalent towards the Church before he converted it. He had actively persecuted it, even throwing rocks at the head of St. Stephen. But he changed, or God changed him, on one night. And on that night Christianity changed too. And when the course of Christianity changed, the world changed. It is difficult to overemphasize the impact of today’s feast.” ~ catholicreadings.org

POPE FRANCIS PROCLAIMS “The Year of St. Joseph”

The Apostolic Penitentiary issues a Decree granting plenary indulgences for the year of St. Joseph proclaimed by Pope Francis on Tuesday. The special year will last from 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church, as well as the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady.

...“to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Custodian of Jesus.”
www.vaticannews.va

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thank you to All who have signed up for the \$25 recurring donation each month to sponsor an inmate with a free Bible, Bible Study workbook, Basic Catechism, Newsletter and Holy Cards. We are all profoundly grateful for all your support.

A Prayer for Faith in the New Year – “Lord, even though I woke up with the same troubles I had yesterday, I know there is great power in my choices. So today, dear God, once again, I choose to listen for your voice above everything else. Forgive me for not trusting you enough. Forgive me for spinning my wheels and trying to work everything out all on my own. Help me to truly let go of what you have asked me to release to you and to believe that you are at work in ways I can't fully see. Help me in my unbelief.” Crosswalk.com

Wishing you all a Blessed New Year, St. Dismas Guild

Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study workbook.
Cycle B is now available.

