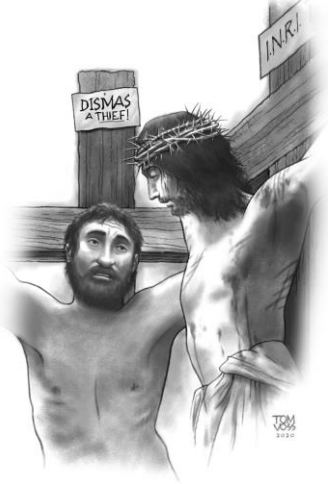


St. Dismas Guild
P.O. Box 2129
Escondido, CA 92033

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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.

**In 2020 we sent 57,228 Newsletters and 1,583 Packages!!!
We average 67 New Inmate requests each month!**

February 2021

TESTIMONY

Dear St Dismas Guild, Firstly, I would like to thank all the staff, volunteers, and my fellow spiritual brothers and sisters who are involved with the guild. You are all in my prayers, God bless you all for your inspiration, guidance, and writings.

Secondly, like many of those who write and or are in prison; we have gone through abuses as children and teens. And unfortunately, the above continues for those of us who are incarcerated. I use myself as an example. I was sexually and emotionally abused for years, and then my time in prison I have faced more physical and emotional abuse.

I used to be an atheist, but when I was in county jail facing conviction Jesus came to me. He saved me, taking away my addiction to alcohol and took away my pain. I have since become a prodigal son, returning to Catholicism and Christ. God has guided me to the right path that has enabled me to forgive everyone for anything and everything. HE has led me and shown me how to heal, how to change, and how to value all of creation.

Praise be to God and glory to Jesus, for despite all my abuses; I have the strength to heal, the urge to never repeat my crime, and the need to be of service to others.

Thank you, St Dismas Guild, for being a part of my long journey of rehabilitation and recovery. Much love and God bless, C.W.

Dear C.W., "I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me". Phil.4:13 God is truly touched and healed your heart. It shows in the sincerity you wrote in your letter. "For His sake I have thrown everything away, I consider it all as mere garbage, so that I may gain Christ and be completely united with Him. I now have the righteousness that is given through Faith in Christ, the righteousness that comes from God and is based on Faith." Phil.3:8-9.

Our Lord has shown you His Mercy and Love. Even though your past was broken and wounded, His whispers in your heart healed and guided and directed you through with His Spirit to where you are today. "And with all His

abundant wealth through Christ Jesus my God will supply all your needs" Phil. 4:19

May the Holy Spirit continue to transform your new life and like you said, "I have the strength to heal, the urge to never repeat my crime, and the need to be of service to others." May God continue to bless you with this opportunity to share with others and to be His light. "Put into practice what you've learned and receive from me, both my words and from my actions. And the God who gives us peace will be with you." Phil.4:9

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St Dismas Guild, thank you for Father Richard's enlightenment on homosexuality and how these actions can sometimes take the place of a female and a male gender as far as masturbation is concerned. I've had a wakeup call about that today after I received the newsletter yesterday. I've had that habit now for I don't know how long. God knows everything, and He also knows our hearts, if we are chaste or not and I definitely wasn't.

I have had to ask myself: what would Jesus do? So that question helped me set my own desires aside and do what I honestly know Jesus would do. Today I feel better as a baptized Christian also and I know that Jesus never sinned and that includes this habit. And I also know Jesus is my elder brother so I should be chaste as He is.

Dear Jesus, help me through the indwelling Holy Spirit and your example not to do this habit anymore. You know me Jesus and you know I want to please our heavenly father like you did while you were here on earth in your ministry. Help me to stay chaste as you did. Thank you for hearing my prayer of faith, amen. See you all in paradise someday. Cordially, P.R.

Dear P.R., Sex within marriage between a man and a woman is a beautiful expression of LOVE and total self-giving which produces children. Masturbation is a selfish act of self-gratification which is contrary to the purpose of procreation. Many saints have struggled with purity and found help by turning to Our Lady, Mother Most Pure. Pray the Hail Mary often and ask for purity and self-control. It is difficult but persevere in your efforts. "No trial has come to

you but what is human. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial HE will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

+++++

Dear St. Dismas Guild, I wanted to take a brief moment to THANK YOU for all that you do for us who are incarcerated. There are times that being behind a fence or wall becomes lonely and desperate. **Knowing and being reminded that we have the Father, Son and Holy Spirit on our side is a relief.** Your work helps facilitate His Glory and Love. I would also like to request the next cycle of the Bible Study. Thank you for your time and work! Glory be to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. S.U.

Dear S.U., we are grateful for your letter of appreciation and for all the inmate's letters. They are very encouraging to all of us, but we especially hope/pray that they are beneficially to all who are incarcerated. Yes, being reminded of all the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit offer to each one of us is a great relief and comfort especially in these trying times. They are ALWAYS there for us, in good times and in bad. Their LOVE NEVER fails us. They will NEVER abandon or forsake us and remember, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8 Know that the Cycle B Bible Study workbook is on its way and will help you continue to grow in your faith. Thank you for writing to us and sharing your thoughts. Wishing you all the best in your faith journey.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

The beauty of the true teaching of Jesus proclaimed in the Catholic Church is that we become new persons in Jesus Christ. Many non-Catholic Christian ecclesial communities claim that we remain in our sins, and that we are only lifted by the Grace of Jesus, that no change occurs in us through His Passion, Death, Resurrection, or Ascension. Those are NOT religions for me. I WANT CHANGE!!

Regardless of the evil I have done, Jesus' Forgiveness removes the guilt and the penalty that I would owe to the Father for my sin. While a public crime would require a societal penalty such as a fine or an imprisonment, Jesus releases the believer from the imprisonment of continuing to be controlled by the sin and from any repayment due to God. HE paid the price on the cross. It is my privilege to live the change that Jesus is making in me through Baptism and Penance which Forgive sin, through the Holy Eucharist which empowers me to live in a New Way; to let Jesus be in me to Live, Move, and Have my being with Him.

Jesus changes man into His image and likeness through Forgiveness. Memories may remain, but the Grace of the New Life leads the Christian onward to HEAVEN.

PRO-LIFE

Wake Up America - We are all appalled by the gun violence, opioid epidemic, school shootings and massacres in our country - as well we should be! But what about the millions of babies that have been killed by our own country's law of abortion? **Since abortion was made legal, all life has been devalued.**

We live in the United States of America - the greatest country on Earth! How could we have allowed this to ever become a law of our land? It is evil! It is murder of little, helpless, innocent babies! Absolutely no one person nor one of our fifty States has the right to kill a baby! Wake up America! - Ruth Webe, Iowa - Pro-Life Articles.org

More human beings died in abortions than any other cause of death in 2020, a new report indicates. A heartbreaking reminder about the prevalence of abortion, statistics compiled by Worldometers indicate that there were over 42.6 million abortions world-wide in 2020. www.worldometers.info

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR FEBRUARY: "...is dedicated to the **Holy Family**. The special devotion which proposes the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the model of virtue of all Christian households began in the 17th century. ... The feast was welcomed by succeeding Pontiffs as an efficacious means for bringing home to the Christian people the example of the Holy Family at Nazareth, and by the restoration of the true spirit of family life, stemming, in some measure, the evils of present-day society. ~ catholicculture.org

A Few FEAST DAYS:

Feb. 2nd - **Presentation of the Lord** - "occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in today's liturgy."

Feb. 8th - **St. Josephine Bakhita** - "Saint Josephine was a young Sudanese girl sold into slavery and brought to Italy. There she was baptized, and, having reached majority age, was granted her freedom by Italian law. She died after a long and painful illness, during which she would cry out to the Lord: "Please loosen the chains... they are so heavy!" Her dying words were "Our Lady! Our Lady!"

Feb. 11th - **Our Lady of Lourdes** - "Today marks the first apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1858 to fourteen-year-old Marie Bernadette (St. Bernadette) Soubirous. Between February 11 and July 16, 1858, the Blessed Virgin appeared eighteen times, and showed herself to St. Bernadette in the hollow of the rock at Lourdes."

Feb. 21st - **First Sunday of Lent** - "Lent is the Christian season of spiritual preparation before Easter. In Western churches, it begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17th). During Lent, many Christians observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial, and spiritual discipline. The purpose of the **Lenten season** is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ—to consider HIS suffering and HIS sacrifice, HIS life, death, burial, and resurrection." By Mary Fairchild

Other Above dates info. from catholicreadings.org

MESSAGE FROM SDG PRESIDENT

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH, TERROR OF DEMONS: Saint Joseph, Terror of Demons, cast your solemn gaze upon the devil and all his minions, and protect us with your mighty staff. You fled through the night to avoid the devils wicked designs; now with the power of God, smite the demons as they flee from you! Grant special protection, we pray, for children, fathers, families, and the dying. By God's grace, no demon dares approach while you are near, so we beg of you, always be near to us! Amen. Blessings, Deacon Mitch

FROM THE DIRECTOR

*If you want to grow in a personal relationship with God then we encourage you to participate in **The Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study** workbook, written by our Founders Deacon Ken and Marie Finn. This workbook follows the Liturgical Calendar of the Church and helps prepare you for the upcoming Sunday Mass readings. We are currently in Cycle B. Request yours now...*

Blessings from all of us here at St. Dismas Guild

