

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

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St. Dismas Guild ~ Prison Ministry

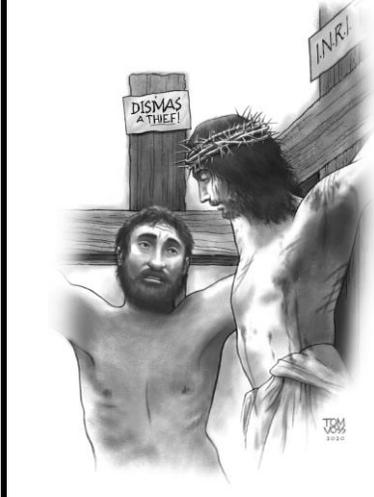
“Lord, when did I see you ...in prison, and not help you?” Matt. 25:44

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.

We ask for God’s Blessings over all our Volunteers, Donors/Sponsor, and especially to all the inmates who write to us with their requests and share their Testimonies...

April 2021



TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild’s Favored Personnel, This is another poor soul trying to find a better way to live a healthy, safe and productive life. I wish you and everyone around the world involved in promoting, teaching, and proclaiming the ways to live the teachings of Jesus Christ through the Gospel a blessed 2021. May blessings and happiness fill your hearts in the name of Jesus.

As many others, I was also at the end of a very dark tunnel due to my actions and ignorance. But thanks to God’s loving hand I am becoming a work in process. Though my faith has become stronger by the day, I need additional help from blessed people like you to see the love of God grow bigger and bigger in my heart. I just want to do the right thing from this moment on. I know in my heart I have been forgiven and I have forgiven everyone that may have hurt me throughout my life. I have so much love for everyone that I do not recall ever being hurt. I pray every day for those I know I hurt and for all those I do not know, but I continue hurting for my wrong doings. I try to live a prayer life, surrendering everything to the will of God and there is nothing I do without offering my love to God.

I have no formal education in the Word of God except reading the Bible, reading the lives of the Saints and other religious books that make me want to become a saint myself. As you know, we have had a very difficult year, rehabilitating programs and other types of educational classes have been cancelled or discontinued.

Now, do you have any educational materials that may enable me or assist me in becoming another servant of Christ? I desire to serve, and I want to serve. I want to share my love, the love of God that now lives in me, with everyone God willing sets in my path. I understand and accept the desires of my poor flesh, but I also trust in the willingness and love of God that what you provide will be what is necessary. As my beloved father said, sometimes, nothing is the best that can happen to us.

May God give you wisdom and judgment and guide us to the correct road. May God fill you with all my love and happiness and allow me to enjoy through God’s love all your

pleasant moments. With all my love in the name of Jesus, A.O.

Dear A.O., we sent you the Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study and suggest you do it as you do not need any formal education in the bible to do each week’s lesson concentrating on the personal questions. “Faith comes through hearing and what is heard is the word of God.” Romans 10:17 Jesus Christ is personally calling you into a personal relationship with Him as you do the lesson and put it into practice. It is wonderful you want to share the love of God that is in you. His love endures forever and “As a mother comforts her son, so will I comfort you; in Jerusalem you shall find your comfort.” Isaiah 66:13 He is saying this to you. Remember, “Faith without works is dead.” James 2:26 Putting God’s word into practice is the key to healing bad memories. Blessings to you A.O.

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St Dismas Guild, I am excited! Joyously excited! I recently received your February newsletter. It showed the increasing number of newsletters and packages that you’ve sent out. Wow! I’ve been getting your newsletter since early 2005 and it is a good feeling to see the numbers grow.

Also, when I was first locked up, I thought my chances of finding a good Catholic man was a near impossible feat. How wrong your newsletter has let me know. I thank God that so many men have decided to turn their lives around and return to church. It takes a real man to turn his life around. With the Guilds help of books and male role models and God’s hand in the mix it’s the only way this was done. It’s my prayers answered.

I will be seeing parole soon after 20 years in prison. My constant prayer has been that I will be able to find a true Catholic man, and it seems God solved that small task. I continue to encourage all men and women to do the right thing. The Holy Spirit is there to help. Your soul depends on it. Thank you, St Dismas Guild, for continuing with the vision of Deacon Ken and Marie Finn. Sincerely, K.L.

Dear K.L., we are so happy to see your enthusiasm about the newsletter. We hope to reach every facility and as many

people as possible to spread the Good News of our faith and "...to live in a manner worthy of the Lord, so as to be fully pleasing, in every good work bearing fruit and growing in the knowledge of God." Colossians 1:10

Congratulations on your parole. When you are released, find a Catholic Church and if possible, go to daily Mass. Join a Bible Study group, volunteer for a ministry that interests you and attend social events offered by the parish. Surround yourself with likeminded Catholic men and women. **Proverbs 18:22 says, "To find a wife is to find happiness."** There are good Catholic men who are searching for this happiness. Continue to pray and **make Jesus your first love and He will have the right man find you. Be patient and... "hold fast to the LORD, your God, as you have done up to this day."** Joshua 23:8.

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St Dismas Guild, I thank you for your prison ministry, your effort to evangelize, your Bibles, Bible Study, Prayer Cards, devotions, Newsletter, and all you do for prisoners. This month I want to send my Roman Catholic Church tithe to your prison ministry. I pray this helps you to reach just one more sinner and keep that one soul, from falling away. 2 Thessalonians 2.

I pray this also be 10,000 seeds of faith planted through your Roman Catholic Ministry. As I make this tithe, this devotion, I pray it be unified with our Catholic Lent Pilgrimage and this year's devotion to Saint Joseph. I renew my Roman Catholic consecration to Immaculata as her "Militia of the Immaculata" in holy union with St Kolbe #16670. ...Please send me a prayer book and brown scapular for this journey. In Christ and Immaculata, E.C.

Dear E.C., God bless you for your enlightenment and generosity. **"He gives generously to the needy, His kindness lasts forever."** 2 Corth.9:8 Your eyes and heart have been opened to God's word and through it, He has changed your way of life to follow Him, by spreading His message to others, by your tithing to our ministry and Devotion to St. Joseph and consecration to the Immaculata in union with St. Kolbe, we pray in thanksgiving, May God continue to guide, bless, and enlighten you on your journey as you continue to share His message. **"May He fulfill by His power all your desire for goodness and complete your work of faith."** 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 Also, please read Luke 6:38 and 2 Thessalonians 3:1 Unfortunately, we do not have Brown Scapulars to send to inmates.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

Can you help me understand "Redemptive Suffering" and how suffering can have meaning in my life?

What kind of suffering can be "offered up" and who can it be offered for? Also, is it appropriate to offer up menial daily tasks such as cleaning, or working out, etc. like for the conversion of my wife or son, etc.?

Any insights into this would be helpful. Thank you and may God Bless your ministry!

All types of prayer offered to God, including daily tasks that are given by Him and offered back to Him with Jesus are a response to His grace. There are two kinds of grace: **sanctifying grace**, that presence and power of Jesus that makes us holy, and **actual grace**, that power and presence of Jesus that prompts us and empowers us to respond to any situation through Him, with Him, and in Him. People should ask God for anything, and He will purify the prayer and answer it according to His will for our benefit. **"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing."** 1 Thess. 5:16-17

PRO-LIFE

The TRUTH about abortion is repugnant and abhorrent. It is therefore not easy and requires courage to speak out about abortion. However, as Catholics, we must boldly

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Evangelization through Scripture and Ministry to prisoners. ~ www.StDismasGuild.org
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speak the TRUTH and contradict the untruths and misleading rhetoric which surrounds the issue. Some of the myths are discussed below:

* "The government should not interfere with someone's personal choice." This is neither practical, desirable, or correct. If there is only one legitimate function of government, it is the protection of innocent human life and to prevent one individual victimizing another. The word "choice" might sound good, but the reality is that some "choices" are crimes, and all crimes are "choices".

* Abortion advocates try to use smokescreen language to conceal the truth about abortion. A good example is the term "women's reproductive rights". The biological reality is that when a woman is pregnant, reproduction has already occurred. If that were not true, there would be nothing for the abortionist to abort.

* Another deliberately misleading term is "woman's access to healthcare". Healthcare relates to the treatment of diseases, injuries, or illnesses. Since pregnancy is none of these, **abortion is Definitely Not "healthcare."**

~ Pro-Life Articles.org

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR APRIL:

The month of APRIL is dedicated both to devotion to the **Eucharist** and to the **Holy Spirit**. This tradition has developed because Easter Sunday often falls in April, ...and during the Easter celebration we remember the Eucharistic sacrifice Christ gave us and the **Baptism** in the **Holy Spirit**, which would come after Jesus's resurrection. – from immanugrace.jimdofree.com



A Few FEAST DAYS:

April 1st 2nd 3rd - Sacred Triduum - The last three days of Holy Week are referred to as the Easter or Sacred Triduum (*Triduum Sacrum*), the three-part drama of Christ's redemption: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

April 4th - Easter Sunday - Easter is the Feast of Feasts, the pure joy and gladness of all Christians.

April 23rd - St. George - He belonged to the Roman army, was arrested and, probably, beheaded under Diocletian, c. 304. He is the patron of England, since 800. St. George is one of the "Fourteen Holy Helpers." **Patron:** archers; butchers; equestrians; farmers; field workers; horsemen; leprosy; plague; skin diseases; soldiers; syphilis.

April 23rd - St. Catherine of Siena – born in Siena, was favored with visions from the age of seven. Dominican Order, she acquired great influence by her life of prayer and extraordinary mortifications as well as by the spread of her spiritual writings. She died in Rome on April 29, 1380. **Patron:** bodily ills; firefighters; illness; miscarriages; nurses; people ridiculed for their piety; sexual temptation; sick people; temptations. ~ catholicculture.org

FROM THE DIRECTOR

To grow in a personal relationship with God we encourage you to check out Marie's PODCASTS! They follow the GOSPEL reading and questions from "The Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study." Marie shares her Answers/Reflections and Commentary by her late husband Deacon Ken Finn. (My apologies for a typo in last month's Newsletter which said last husband) You can find the Podcast link on our Website under the Bible Study tab.

Easter Blessings, St. Dismas Guild

