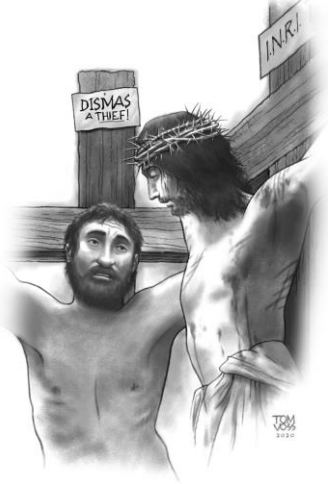


St. Dismas Guild  
P.O. Box 2129  
Escondido, CA 92033

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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](http://www.StDismasGuild.org)  
or by mail, PO Box 2129, Escondido, CA, 92033.

**Please consider setting up a recurring Monthly Donation, on our Website, to help fund our Newsletter and send Catholic Materials to inmates across the U.S.**

**June 2021**

### TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, I want to start off by saying that I love the newsletters. I also want to share my true story of my life with the Catholic brothers and sisters.

I am a male and I was born in 1988. My Mom left me when I was six months old. I grew up moving from place to place. When I was 2-6 years old I was abused by my uncles friends physically. From 6-7 I was physically abused by my stepmom until I almost killed her. Around the same time I was sexually abused by my babysitter. Seven to ten years old I spent in the mental institution. At ten when I got out I went into a foster care. While I was there I joined a gang, started doing drugs, carrying guns, stalking people, stealing, pulling armed robbery, and taking cars to a chop shop. So far I have been shot 7 times, stabbed 10 times, and that was all before my 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. From 16-20 years old I've been in state prison and I'll be here for my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. I've done just about everything, grand theft auto, assault with a deadly weapon, shooting at a gang war, and fleeing and avoiding the cops.

I'm glad they caught me because I have no family, no one to care for me but me. **If they didn't take me to jail I would've never found Jesus and I probably would be dead right now.** God bless you, N.C.

P.S. If you can find a girl my age to write to me so I can have a pen pal I would be very thankful.

*Thank you N.C. for writing to us. It sounds like you have had a pretty full life of crime and loneliness. We believe the tremendous importance of a mother in the life of a child. When a child is abandoned by the mother or the father it has life long consequences on them. But that can be healed by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He loves us unconditionally, even if we ignore Him. He is always looking for His lost sheep. As we develop a personal relationship with Jesus through His Word, the bible, asking the Holy Spirit to teach us about Him and His unconditional love, we find healing. In the case of abandonment by a mother you, too, can be healed when you develop a personal relationship*

*with our Blessed Mother. When Jesus died on the cross He told His disciple John, “Behold, your mother.” He told His mother, “Behold, your son.” This established our Blessed Mother as our mother. All the love that was lacking from your biological mother can be filled by Our Blessed Mother. She loves you whether you say the rosary or just ignore her. She is your mother and will fill you with her love and you too will find healing as you come to her and ask her to love you because you never felt the love of your mother.*

*In reference to your request for female pen pal... It is not our policy to have female mentors for male inmates. We will send your letter to one of our male mentors. **The role of the Spiritual Mentor is to help guide you in your spiritual growth, especially with the Bible Study.** The spiritual mentor will Not be a Social Worker or Pen Pal, but one who has been called by Christ to help you in your walk with Jesus. Please send us your faith-based questions and we will assign you to a mentor to help guide you in your journey. God bless you in your faith.*

### DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St. Dismas Guild, Thank you so much for your help, newsletters, bible, and Bread of Life Bible Study. I've also gotten a lot out of Matthew Kelly's "Rediscover Catholicism". This time of despair for many has been a blessing for me. **God truly has a way of making “everything work for the good of those who love HIM.”**

I have been thinking about trying to order a good Catholic Study Bible to use along with my Bread of Life Study. Could you recommend one for me, as there seems to be so many versions and translations?

Thank you again for all that you have done and continue to do for so many. May God Bless you all in these endeavors and give us all the Grace we need to draw closer to Jesus. I'll keep you all in my daily chaplet and rosary prayers. In Christ, J.L.

*Dear J.L., The early Apostles traveled to many places spreading the word, some people rejected them and*

others "...received the word with all willingness and examined the scriptures daily to determine whether these things were so." Acts 11:12. Like those early Christians, you are wise to spend your time examining the Scriptures.

Saint Dismas cannot provide Study Bibles, but we can recommend The Catholic Study Bible from the Oxford University Press. It is based on the third edition of the New American Bible, Revised Edition and contains color maps, a glossary of terms and commentary. It would make the perfect companion to the Bread of Life which was written using the New American Bible.

We are sending you Cycle B of the Bread of Life and a list of books that are available from St. Dismas. We very much appreciate and need your prayers. We will continue to pray for you that as you study the Scriptures, "you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." John 8:32.

+++++

Dear Saint Dismas Guild, I wanted to share this prayer with you. I feel it would be a great help to many people incarcerated as it has been for me.

**Father in heaven you have been so much more than a father to me. YOU HAVE ALSO BEEN MY CLOSEST FRIEND.** Sometimes I wake up early in the morning hours and I stare at the ceiling suffering with pain and depression. And then I hear a quiet still voice whisper in my ear, Son I am with you all the way, do not drift into the place that satisfies Satan. Take my hand and continue this walk with me. Other times, I get very scared, having panic attacks, and all the odds are stacked against me, and then I opened my Bible to Psalm 27 and I am reminded in time of trouble you will hide me in your shelter. Thank you, Lord, for being such a good friend I can turn to for anything. Amen.  
Thank you and God bless, D.G.

Dear D.G., Not only those incarcerated will this prayer help but all of us especially during this time of the Pandemic when we feel isolated and alone and fearful. The Psalm is powerful in reminding us of who God is. He is our light and our salvation and our refuge. Verse 5 of Psalm 27 says "For God will hide me in His shelter in time of trouble. He will conceal me in the cover of His tent; and set me high upon a rock." Do we really believe that? It is true. He will do that for all who are depressed or anxious. The power in God's word to restore, to strengthen, and to heal is right there for us. This is where we find the truth as Jesus says in His prayer to the Father, "Consecrate them in the truth, Your word is truth." (John 17:17) I love the last verse of Psalm 27, "Wait for the Lord, take courage; be stouthearted, wait for the Lord!" As you wait for the Lord study and reflect on His words and continue to turn off the lies of Satan. Your personal relationship with God, D.G., comes through in sending us your letter and prayer. Thank you and God bless you.

### SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

Many times, we receive this question from inmates - about not being able to go to Confession, difficulty Praying and dealing with Sin.

The devil attacks us in 4 ways: deception, division, diversion, discouragement. **Do not allow Satan to let you fall into discouragement.**

Jesus ordinary plan for salvation includes the sacrament of Penance and Eucharist for powerful graces and conversion.

Many people who live in remote areas also cannot avail themselves of these sacraments regularly.

Jesus, however, provides HIS grace in many ways outside the sacraments when we cannot receive them when we wish to do so.

In your case, confess directly to Jesus all your sins, your sorrow, ask pardon, and you will receive forgiveness.

**Jesus loves you and will be there for you.**

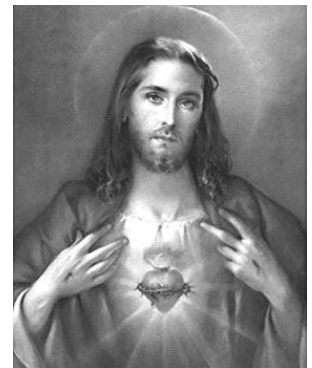
When you are able to confess to a priest, do so and even more grace will flow from God to you through the sacrament of Penance.

Romans 10:9-11 "for, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. For the scripture says, 'No one who believes in HIM will be put to shame.'"

### 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](http://www.catholicculture.org)



#### A Few Feast Days

- June 6<sup>th</sup> The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.
- June 11<sup>th</sup> The Sacred Heart of Jesus.
- June 20<sup>th</sup> The Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- June 24<sup>th</sup> The Birth of St. John the Baptist.
- June 29<sup>th</sup> Peter and Paul.

### PRO-LIFE

#### AMERICA'S DEADLY SILENCE!

Abortion is the most common, least regulated medical procedure and the number one killer in America.

More lives are lost each year through abortion than all deaths due to cancer, heart attacks, accidents, AIDS, natural disasters, wars, illness, and diseases combined.

The savagery of war, the atrocities of the Nazi holocaust, graphic violence, natural disasters, and critical and bloody medical procedures are routinely shown on the media. But never an abortion!

Women are denied critical information on the risks of an abortion, including increased risk of Breast Cancer, Post Abortion Syndrome, the sale of body parts etc.

The truth about abortion has been censored by the media, silenced by our courts, politicized by our politicians, and even silenced in our churches and schools. Babies in the womb have no voice except yours and mine. We cannot remain silent any longer! - Pro-Life Articles Author [www.Pro-LifeArticles.org](http://www.Pro-LifeArticles.org)

### FROM THE DIRECTOR

**HOW TO WRITE A TESTIMONIAL:** We Welcome and Greatly Appreciate your Personal Testimonies and Faith Based Questions for our Spiritual Director for our monthly Newsletter, though we cannot publish each one we receive. Write and tell us your story. (Please limit it to 500 words.)

#### Format your testimony in this way.

- 1/3 Child/Teenage years,
- 1/3 How did Christ change your life?
- 1/3 How is God working in your life now?

Peace of Christ be with you always,  
St. Dismas Guild

