

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

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St. Dismas Guild ~ Prison Ministry

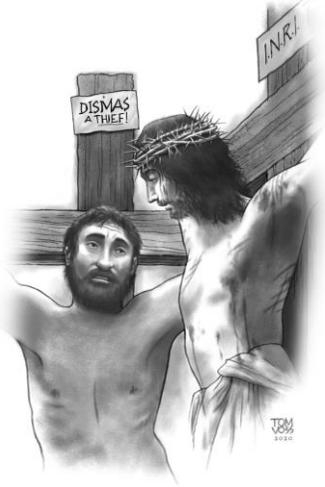
“Lord, when did I see you ...in prison, and not help you?” Matt. 25:44

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.

God Bless all the Inmates who write to us with Faith-based Questions, who share their Testimonies and who send us Donations...

August 2021



TESTIMONY

Hello, today is 27, June 2021. (Subject: Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – Bible study request feedback in one-week tremendous healing.) I waited a week to see what tremendous healing has taken place in my life. So, I would like to reflect and share the spiritual healing that has taken effect. A replication of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I did not like talking to my brother on the phone because all his frustrations from the daily pressures of life would come out of his voice into my ear and stress out my mind and heart. And secondly drug addicts in my Prison Dorm were stressing my mind out. Seeing this self-destructive behavior all around me and next to me rattled my senses day to day. An overwhelming spiritual healing came into my heart. That I may listen to my brother and help him solve his frustrations with solutions to his problems. And secondly my spirit took a deeper root in mercy, and I began to pray for the drug abusers in my prison dorm around me and next to me. Alleluia.

In prison it seems as if every second I am tempted to sin. The day cannot get any dumber from ignorance, arrogance, selfishness, and disobedience. Wandering spirits back and forth like string puppets of satan dancing around in never ending joy of sin.

Today my goal was to stick to 3 objectives. Mass readings, bible study, and prayer of the month that I would like to share with you right now. Saint Anthony of Padua, (I have no idea who he is.) “Oh God, send forth your Holy Spirit into my heart that I may perceive, into my mind that I may remember and into my soul that I may meditate. Inspire me to speak with piety, holiness, tenderness, and mercy. Teach, Guide, and Direct my thoughts and senses from beginning to end. May your Grace ever help and correct me. And may I be strengthened now with wisdom from on high for the sake of your infinite mercy. Amen.”

I am not in the real world going to work, doing house chores, or even communicating with family. So, if I do not accomplish these 3 objectives at least 3 or 4 times a week I feel unworthy of my calling to live a life anew. My main overall goal is to carry the cross. I struggle everyday with my instincts. I do almsgiving once a month and I am ready to

give up. Since the devil’s envy and alliances are submerging me full scale. Nobody is worth more than the other. But I can only extend one helping hand and stay consistent. My letters are always long. I feel like I am speaking to Jesus. His spirit, I guess. God bless, D.C.

Dear D.C., It sounds like, after reading your letter referring to the 11th Sunday of Ordinary time in the Bread of Life Bible Study, you answered all of the personal questions and are applying them to your life. You are listening to Jesus and applying the word to your life. You applied the word to your life when you decided to listen to your brother and are praying for the drug abusers. What a comfort it must be for you knowing you are listening to the Holy Spirit living in the circumstances you are living in. We are so pleased you are receiving healing from our Lord as you do the study. He is touching your life in a powerful way under the circumstances you are living in. 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 He says He will always be with you to Guide and Direct you to all Truth. His word is Truth, He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. “Come to me all you who are weary and find life burdensome, take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart. Your souls will find rest, for my yoke is easy and my burden light.” (Matthew 11:28-30). Rest in HIS love D.C.

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St. Dismas Guild, Thank you so much for the newsletters. The testimonies and guidance are uplifting and educational. I wish to add my short testimony for others to read. I was raised in a household where religion was not regularly discussed or practiced. I was told as a child that I was Catholic but had no concept of the meaning of that word. I asked to attend a Catholic high school and later attended Catholic college and graduate school. It was not until I was incarcerated, however, that I truly understood the power of Christ’s sacrifice. I know that I can be forgiven and healed. The presence of our Lord and Savior with me here keeps me from ever feeling alone. I would

also like to inquire if there are any opportunities for serving the church following incarceration? Are any vocations available to a reformed former inmate? In His Service, C.S.

Dear C.S.. Thank you for writing to us. You were blessed to be raised in a Catholic home and receive a Catholic education. In school, you learned about Jesus and the tenets of the faith. You knew about Him, but you did not know Him personally. **Jesus said 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will enter his house....' Rev. 3:20.** Behind a locked prison door, you opened the door to your heart and allowed Jesus in.

When you are released, speak to the Pastor at the church you will attend and explain your situation. He will know what ministries you can participate in. A vocation is a calling from the Holy Spirit. If you feel led, you can look into lay orders, for example the Carmelites, the Benedictine Oblates or the Third Order Franciscans. Each has its own spirituality and rule. Be guided by the Holy Spirit, **"With your counsel you guide me, and at the end receive me with honor." Psalm 73:24**

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

I see Jesus drawing us into a PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION through Word, Sacrament, Charity, Creating us, Living in us, and Guiding us (if we bother to listen to HIM.)

I see America and the churches in America as abandoning personal change and charity to virtue signaling — that is **saying** what needs to be done, and then ceding that obligation to the government rather than spending one's own resources of talent, time, treasure, instead living for oneself, — allowing NGO's (Non-Governmental Organizations) and governments to set the agenda with sexual license, virus/vax, climate theories, race theories, comfortably protesting the "wall" on the American side of the border instead of going across to engage personally others with the bible and catechism and material relief, socialism, personal interpretations of fairness, justice, rights, and equality, centralization of power and money into diocesan offices and bishops' conferences, preaching the social gospel of all accepted as they are without change of any behavior and even without the necessity of accepting Jesus and baptism, and other things, and bringing all that into the church to transform us into some worldly person **instead of taking our Catholic faith out to the world for transformation into Jesus' image.** In order to practice the Catholic faith, one needs to know it.

Romans 10:13-17 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." But how can they call on HIM in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in HIM of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring [the] good news!" But not everyone has heeded the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what was heard from us? Thus, faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ."

The classic Catholic faith in Word, Sacrament and Charity will change a man from within by his relationship with Jesus. The common sense "things to do to make America better" will be some among many that would follow a deep relationship with Jesus IF a Catholic knows his faith and follows it.

Bishops need to follow Paul's advice to preach the Catholic faith to their priests, not the worldly issues of climate, race, and others as defined by those outside the church.

Priests like me need to teach the Word, make Holy through the Sacraments, and encourage personal Charity.

Laities need to Learn and Teach the Word, Participate in the Sacramental life, and Charity which transforms a person into the image of Christ.

I don't listen to churchmen preaching the government and NGO "gospel", nor to Catholics who try to rewrite the Catechisms to conform to their own peculiar understandings.

I do listen to churchmen (Catholic, Christian, and even non-Christian) **whose advice comes from common sense** (which is one of the 5 internal senses taught by St. Thomas Aquinas along with memory, imagination, fantasy, and estimation) **and from the Holy Bible.**

PRO LIFE

"If we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell people not to kill one another." *Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

"Women have a right to Choose what to do with Their Body, Not the Baby's Body" *Alveda King*

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR AUGUST: ... is

to **The Immaculate Heart of Mary.** The entire 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. www.catholicculture.org



A FEW FEAST DAYS:

August 6th - Transfiguration, The Transfiguration foretells the glory of the Lord as God, and His Ascension into heaven.

August 14th – St. Maximilian Kolbe, patron of journalists, families, prisoners, the pro-life movement and the chemically addicted.

August 27th – St. Monica, patron saint of abuse victims, wives, alcoholics, and widows.

August 28th – St. Augustine, son of St. Monica and patron saint of brewers, printers, and theologians, he led a former life of loose living before his conversion, which included parties, entertainment, and worldly ambitions.

All you holy Saints of God, pray for us!

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?

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

