

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

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St. Dismas Guild ~ Prison Ministry

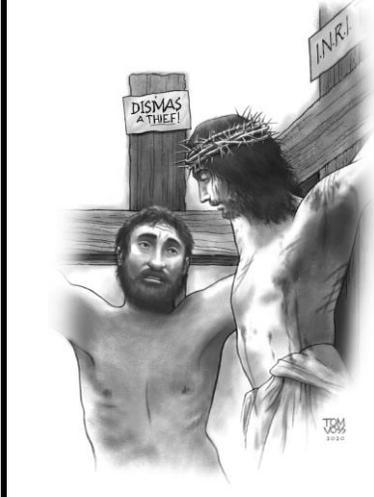
“Lord, when did I see you ...in prison, and not help you?” Matt. 25:44

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 \$25 recurring donation online. Thank you...

September 2021



DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St. Dismas Guild, God's Blessings in Jesus to all the brothers and sisters of the St. Dismas Guild. I just got your July newsletter which I love, and I just finished reading it for the third time. Please keep them coming. I'm also glad that the director is well.

I have spent the last 34 years as an adult locked up. My 18th parole hearing is next month. Please pray this be the year of my release. I am in my 50's. The time is just a blur.

I grew up running the streets looking for my next high. I was in and out of reform schools. I am just now learning about my Catholic Faith. I have strength and peace that comes from a life praying and reading God's Word. I have come to realize the best we can do is Love God, love others and forgive ourselves, and to live a life and lifestyle that is of prayer in the Father, Son (Jesus) and the Holy Ghost, and to apply this with whole heartedly obedience to our Heavenly Father. We should love and appreciate other people and to count our Blessings along the way, and to live with mercy, compassion, and forgiveness.

May Our God keep you all in the hollow of His hands, inside and outside. Make the most of your time while you still have it. God loves us, we are His children. Hope is real in Jesus. God bless you and be with all of you. You are very dear and precious to God and me. From M.C.

Dear M.C, In Mark Chapter 12, a scribe asks Jesus "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus answered saying to love God above all things and your neighbor as yourself. The scribe says to Jesus, "Well said teacher" and repeats the words of Jesus. "And when Jesus saw that [he] answered with understanding, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

It is important to note that Jesus said that the scribe answered with understanding. It is not enough for us to repeat the words of Jesus; we must live them with understanding. As you so wisely wrote, 'to live with wholehearted obedience to our Heavenly Father, and appreciate other people and live with mercy, compassion, and forgiveness' - this is the understanding that will bring us all

closer to the kingdom of God. Above all, practice love. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

We pray that God's perfect Will be done in your parole hearing. Please write and let us know how it turns out.

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Hello, I'm not sure how to go about this, but I would like your help in obtaining a Catholic Bible. I feel awkward in asking, but my financial situation isn't very good. Another inmate provided me with your contact information. I would like to be provided with materials, such as workbooks, to reconnect with my faith. I walked away a lot from God and finding I need Him more than ever. I grew up in the Catholic Church but forgot a lot about what I was taught. I'm not sure if you can help with this, like offering R.C.I.A. classes? I think I have that right.

I'm not a very smart man but I do know I want to mend my relationship with God and the Church. I hurt a lot of people through my decisions but want to take this time during my incarceration to find healing with God so I can have everlasting life after this life. I'm trying daily to find inner peace and healing so I can give my all to serving Christ. I'm also working toward making amends where possible with those I harmed but I need to forgive myself first. I apologize if I was too forward, but I need help with some things so whatever you can offer would be a blessing. The chaplain resources are very limited here, which is another reason I'm reaching out to your organization. The fellow Catholics, though a small group here, have helped me to reach out to you by providing contact info, pen, paper, envelope and stamp. Please pray for my family and friends and fellow inmates. I look forward to your response and thank you for any consideration in helping me with the materials I need. God Bless. P.T.

Dear P.T., your openness and desire to getting right with God is heard. It is the beginning of your healing. Matthew 11:28-30 says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon your shoulders 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." We are sending you a bible,

The Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study, a catechism, and some pamphlets. You do not need to be a smart man to do the bible study. God will refresh your memory as you come to know Jesus personally through the word of God and doing the bible study. Growing up in the Catholic Church is a foundation that will help you in your walk with him. You are blessed you have good fellow Catholics who gave you our info and provided you with pen, paper, envelop and stamp. The hardest person to forgive is yourself. God forgives you just for the asking with a sincere heart. He sees your heart and will give you the desire of your heart. Peace is His gift to you P.T. God bless you.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

In Catholic circles we have guiding principles. One such is *lex orandi lex credendi*: **the way of prayer is the way of belief.** How we address and listen to God forms our attitude, our understanding, our behaviors, our religion.

For many years that seemed to be settled before upheavals in the church changed the way of prayer and thus the ways of belief.

In former times, Catholics knew that the One True Church is the Catholic Church founded by Christ.

In that Church Christ was present to His believers in word, sacrament, and charity, giving them grace, teaching them, transforming them into His divine image.

Jesus frees believers from sin for good works, from eternal death for eternal life, and from isolation to communion with Him and other believers in the Communion of SAINTS: the Church Triumphant in heaven, the Church **Suffering** in purgatory, the Church Militant here on earth as we work out our salvation “in fear and trembling.”

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR SEPTEMBER:

... is to the **Seven Sorrows of Mary** – “The purpose of the



Devotion of the Seven Sorrows is to promote union with the **sufferings** of Christ through union with the special **suffering** that Our Lady endured because she was the Mother of God. By uniting ourselves with both the Passion of Christ and His holy Mother, we enter into Jesus’ Heart and honor Him greatly; He is more honored because we have so honored His Mother.

The Seven Sorrows are taken from Scripture events...”

<http://www.catholictradition.org/Mary/7sorrows.htm>

1. The prophecy of Simeon (*Luke 2:25-35*).
2. The flight into Egypt (*Matthew 2:13-15*).
3. Loss of the Child Jesus for three days (*Luke 2:41-50*)
4. Mary meets Jesus on His way to Calvary (*Luke 23:27-31; John 19:17*).
5. Crucifixion and Death of Jesus (*John 19:25-30*).
6. The body of Jesus being taken from the Cross (*Psalms 130; Luke 23:50-54; John 19:31-37*).
7. The burial of Jesus (*Isaiah 53:8; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42; Mark 15:40-47*).

A Few FEAST DAYS:

Sept. 3rd – St. Gregory the Great - Patron: choir boys; educators; gout; masons; music; musicians; choirs; singers; stonecutters; teachers; popes; students; scholars; against plague

Sept. 5th - St. Teresa of Calcutta - the tiny woman recognized throughout the world for her work among the poorest of the poor. She is the patron saint of World Youth Day, Missionaries of Charity.

Sept. 23rd - St. Padre Pio - Patron: of Civil defense volunteers, Adolescents, Stress relief, & January blues

All you holy Saints of God, pray for us!

PRO LIFE

“When Life and Family are not treasured and preserved in a society, collapse on all fronts is inevitable.” Fr. Richard Welch, CSSR, JCD, President of Human Life International

“You are called to stand up for Life!... You are called to work and pray against abortion.” St. Pope John Paul II

Mother Teresa's Words of Wisdom

By abortion, the mother kills even her own child to solve her problems, by abortion, the father is told that he does not have to take responsibility at all for the child he brought into the world.

The father is likely to place other women in the same trouble. So, abortion leads to abortion. Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use violence to get what they want. Therefore, the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion.

It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish. How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers.

MESSAGE FROM SDG DIRECTOR

We celebrated our 32nd Anniversary in August, and we Thank you for your continued partnership.

Currently Serving:

- 906 Prison **Facilities** (we began the year w/807 Facilities, that is an increase of 12.27 %).
- 99 **New Facilities** added this year (as of 7/1/21).
- 67 avg. **New Inmates** requesting info. each month.
- 132 avg. **Packages** going out each month.
- We now have **PayPal, Credit Card, and Recurring** payment donation options available on our website.

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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?

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St. Faustina's Diary - “Great love can change small things into great ones, and it is only love which lends value to our actions. And the purer our love becomes, the less there will be within us for the flames of **suffering** to feed upon, and the **suffering** will cease to be a **suffering** for us; it will become a **delight!** By the grace of God, I have received such a disposition of heart that I am never so happy as when I **suffer** for Jesus, whom I love with every beat of my heart.” (303, page 140)

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

