

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

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St. Dismas Guild ~ Prison Ministry

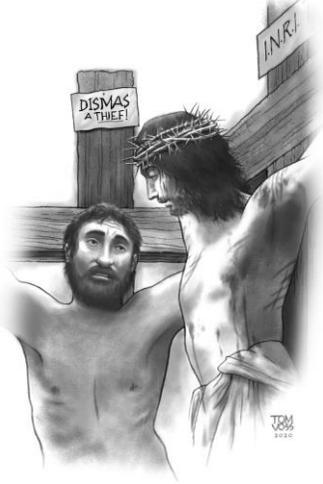
“Lord, when did I see you ...in prison, and not help you?” Matt. 25:44

St. Dismas Guild is a nonprofit organization which provides Catholic Bibles and Bible Studies, free of charge, to inmates.

Donations can be made on our website www.StDismasGuild.org or by mail, PO Box 2129, Escondido, CA, 92033.

Thank you to All who have signed up for the \$25 recurring donation online each month to sponsor an inmate with a free Bible, Bible Study, Newsletter and Holy Cards.

October 2021



TESTIMONY

To St. Dismas Guild, First and foremost thank you so very much for the literature and study material, as well as the bible, you sent. It is exactly what I was in need of and as the days go by, its presence in my possession becomes more and more apparent as the Holy Spirit calls me to study it. These materials are the strength and encouragement I need to repair my healing and the hurt caused by sin and the trials and tribulations of this life as we know it. I pray this letter finds you well, and your loved ones.

I look forward to helping the church however I can. I wonder if being a felon with felonies like mine if there will be room for me to help. I have been a felon since I was 17 and I am still serving that sentence. After August 2021 I will have to spend one more birthday in prison and then I will be released after a ten-year sentence. I want to be able to contribute to my family in Christ. I have a question about the “Bread of Life” study. How exactly does one study the material? I see it has days 1 to 6. Is Sunday Day 1 and so on? Please help me to understand the flow of this study.

I am very excited. Most likely I will be returning to Florida. We have a parish there named St. Rose of Lima. I have family that supports me and will help me, but I am a sex offender and don't know exactly what difficulties I will face. I wish I could stay on a farm somewhere and earn my keep. It seems the closer I get to God, the harder Satan tried to discourage and deceive me from any efforts to do so. That's actually encouraging. So – God Be with You! Thank You, Thank You, Thank you. R.S.

Dear R.S., God is and continues to repair your healing. Since He has given you these past ten years to pray and think about your offences. That in itself was a blessing.

*In the story of the prodigal son, didn't the father of the lost son welcome him back with open arms of forgiveness? Read **Luke 15 :11-32**, especially verse 24.*

*And what about the woman caught in adultery? Read **John 8:11** "Jesus said, I do not condemn you either. Go but do not sin again."*

If you have repented and asked God for True Forgiveness and gone to the sacrament of Penance, it is there when God pours into our trembling hearts His healing, forgiving Grace right out of the wound we have made in Him by our sins. As our sins and dishonorable misdeeds have cast Christ LOVE out of our despairing self-centeredness. So not only Jesus Christ' words, but He Himself must return to us.

*Our sins and faults severely damaged our relationship with God, and so we fall at His feet with much despair. But through the Grace of God and absolution, we are reunited with the LOVE that we lost to our selfish ways. Don't worry about tomorrow and if and where you are going to be accepted.... today has enough worries of its own. See **Matt. 6:34***

*Perseverance in prayer, TRUST in God. He already has a plan for you. "Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the **STRENGTH** that comes from God." **2 Tim 1:8** May He light up your new journey to come. "Behold I am with you always!" **Matthew 28:20** God bless you dear brother in Christ wherever He may lead you. We sent you more information about ways to do the Bible Study.*

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

To Whom it may concern: My name is J.D., and I am currently locked up. I saw a flyer that was “St. Dismas Guild – Prison Ministry” and I instantly knew (“assumed”) it was Catholic. I was baptized by a man named Fr. G.P. and I have been stuck in this facility with no help. So, when I saw the flyer Hope came to me because, until now I have been piecing everything together from memory. I know all the Joyful Mysteries, all the Sorrowful and Glorious, but I seem to forget the Luminous ones. I forget the seven sacraments; I believe it is called. The only one or two I remember is Eucharist. I am in need of a Catholic bible, prayer beads and anything you may have for refreshing my mind on our seven sacraments. If you have a Catechism of the Catholic Church, I'm teaching Catholicism to two or

three guys in here, so whatever study material you can send would be appreciated. Thank you and Peace be with you, J.D.

Dear J.D., Hope is a theological virtue which was infused into your soul at your baptism. When you Hope for something, you Trust that it will happen. When you wrote that Hope came to you when you saw the St. Dismas newsletter; it was God offering you the help you Hoped for. So, when you feel you are stuck and have no help, 'cast all your worries upon Him because He cares for you.' 1 Peter 5:7. Trust Him. He will provide what you need when you need it.

We are sending you a Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church along with a list of books that are available. We cannot send rosary beads to individual inmates anymore, but have your Chaplain contact us and we will send him a bulk order of 10 rosaries. Also, please have your friends write to us and we will provide them with materials so you can study together. "And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:17

PRO-LIFE

"Each October the Church in the United States celebrates **Respect Life Month**, and the first Sunday of October is observed as **Respect Life Sunday**. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of **Life** to its end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human **Life**." respectlife.org

Abortion, Harbinger of Decline... It has been said that there is nothing worse for a mother than to lose a child. If this is so, just think of the 62 million women in our country who are suffering from their great loss after having had an abortion. They must be devastated knowing it was their own decision to kill their baby.

Then we ask how these terrible abortions could be allowed? Back in 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled to make abortion legal. It made a horrible mistake. Those justices were only human and we humans, led on by the devil, make mistakes called sin.

They took it upon themselves to override God's Fifth Commandment, which states 'Thou shalt not kill.' Absolutely no one can change God's law - ever.

And since then, it seems our country has gone downhill, anything goes. If it's OK to kill babies, then they believe it's OK to kill anyone. If it's OK to kill, it's OK to steal; then it's OK to pedal dope and to use dope, and so it's OK to lie and to cheat.

We are in big trouble people. We need our elected officials to stop squabbling and turn our country around and put God back into our lives where He belongs. Now!!!

(Source: Pro-LifeArticles.org)

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

Excerpts from an article on CatholicExchange.com – "**ON PRAYING AND FIGHTING AGAINST EVIL**" August 24, 2021, Fr. Matthew MacDonald

What can I do to fight against evil?

- sanctity can be reduced to one single practice, fidelity to the duties appointed by God.
- The active practice of fidelity consists in accomplishing the duties which devolve upon us whether imposed by the general laws of God and of

the Church, or by the particular state that we may have embraced. Its passive exercise consists in the loving acceptance of all that God sends us at each moment.

How do I fight against evil in prayer?

- When I see the influence of evil go beyond my control even affecting those in authority over me, it is always important that I truly LOVE those who do evil (cf. Mt 5:44; Lk 6:36). LOVE in this sense should be understood as willing the good of the other in the sense of their salvation, perfection, and sanctification as God desires to bestow it on them. (5) Then I am to pray for them that they embrace the Graces of conversion and do the will of God in their life for the end of their salvation.
- pray not only for their freedom from such evil but also that the Lord defeat and destroy such evil intentions or plans in so far as they hinder His saving will (Ps 109). Yet before I can pray that petition for them, I must pray this same petition for myself in my own complacency with sin and evil in my own heart.

[My personal prayer against those who do evil is, "Lord, frustrate their evil designs and convert their hearts and mine." — Fr. Richard]

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR OCTOBER:

"... is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. This is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7th. It was instituted to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful." (Rev. Matthew R. Mauriello, Source: Catholic.net)



A Few FEAST DAYS:

Oct. 2nd - Guardian Angels, Guardian angels are the special angels assigned to humans, helping us throughout our lives from conception until death.

Oct. 3rd - St. Therese of Lisieux, patron of the Missions.

Oct. 4th - St. Francis of Assisi, patron of Animals, Merchants, and Ecology.

Oct. 5th - St. Faustina Kowalska, patron of mercy.

Oct. 7th - Our Lady of the Rosary, patron saint of Guatemala and North Carolina.

Oct. 15th - St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin, Doctor of the Church, patron of headache sufferers and writers.

Oct. 24th - St. Raphael the Archangel, patron of travelers, the blind, and bodily ills.

MESSAGE FROM SDG DIRECTOR

To grow in a personal relationship with God, 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 us for the upcoming Sunday Mass readings. **We begin Cycle C at the end of November.** Please wait until mid Oct. to order Cycle C. Thank you...

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

