

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.

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.

November 2021



TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, I did not write you because I feel that there are more deserving individuals of the blessings you provide and guide. This time, after all these years, is different. I will be 60 years old. I have been in prison for 18+ years without any disciplinary reports or trouble...thank God!

I've done my time teaching GED, mentoring, and for 9 years a class called "Way of Purity" for those who have sexual addiction, sexual immorality, and sexual gratification issues. It is Christ Centered. I was invited to participate as a mentor in a new program for short-sentence prisoners. Tragedy happened. These short-sentenced prisoners are more violent and aggressive. They are not interested in mentoring, nor do they care about an education.

So, I signed out. I was sent to a new facility and placed in a two-man cell with a young man who announced that he hates Catholics and white people. He caught me off guard and punched me in the left side of my face and head. The cameras saw him, so they took us both away. He received battery on an inmate – 1st and 60 days in the box. Because I did not retaliate, I did not receive any disciplinary infraction. However, they put me in protective custody. Ironically, we were placed about ten feet from each other, but in separate cells. Later on he apologized and said it was a misunderstanding. I forgave him!

As it is, I was found on the floor about 02:30 a couple of days later. I was sent by ambulance to an outside hospital for possible stroke. The diagnosis is Bell's Palsy. I am now in a solitary cell in the prison infirmary. It is so quiet! I have a thumb rosary and I pray the rosary many times during the day, plus I have "This Day" which I say morning prayers, the Mass, and evening prayers daily. I also say the Divine Mercy Chaplet every day at 1500 hours.

It is awesome what God can do! Thank you, Jesus! I thought you might appreciate this, and I want to thank you so much for your continued ministry. I promise you that I continue to spread St. Dismas Guild wherever I go, and

especially at all the Catholic groups I encounter! God Speed, P.H.

*Dear P.H., from reading your letter it sounds like you are now in a place where God delights in having you to Himself. You are now able to be alone with the Lord in a quiet time and He delights in you. **Zephaniah 3:17 says, "The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; He will rejoice over you with gladness and renew you in His love, He will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals."***

*You have been through a lot and have made good use of your time in prison. It is obvious you have repented of your sins and have come to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior and the Holy Spirit as your teacher and were able to teach what He taught you to others. All good gifts come from above as **James 1:17 says, "...all good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change."***

You have suffered much, but now calling on our Blessed Mother's intercession, doing your morning prayers, and the Mass, and evening prayers daily along with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in the solitary cell in the infirmary will strengthen you for when you go back to your cell.

Know for certain God loves you no matter your crimes and sees your heart and love for Him. He truly takes delight in you for turning to Him. Remember if you go back into the mainstream, you are a Temple of the Holy Spirit, which is a gift from God, so glorify God in your body.

We are praying for you. Continue to stay close to the Lord. God bless you...

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St. Dismas Guild, my name is K.L. 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 connect

with my faith. I walked away a lot from God and finding I need Him more than ever. I grew up going to church, but I forgot a lot about what I was taught. So, I'm not sure if you can help me as 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 I want to take the 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. So, whatever you can offer would be a blessing. The chaplain's resources are very limited here, which is another reason I'm reaching out to your organization.

Please pray for my family and friends and fellow inmates. I grew up running the streets looking for my next high. I have come to realize the best we can do is Love God, love others and forgive ourselves. Thank you and have a blessed day. K.L.

Dear K.L., Through all the years of running the streets, looking for the next high, God never abandoned you. "The Lord...is patient with you, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9.

Repentance and remorse are the first step in reconciling with God; confession is the next step. Ideally, you would receive the sacrament of reconciliation but since there is no Priest available to you, confess your sins to God with the promise of making a sacramental confession when it becomes available to you. The next step is to make satisfaction for your sins, which you are doing by trying to make amends where possible with the people you have harmed. Pray for them every day. You can't erase the past, but you can give all those memories to Jesus, and He will heal you and bring you peace.

The mission of St. Dismas Guild is to bring the Word of God to the broken, the lost and lonely, the sick and those imprisoned so we are glad that you wrote to us. There is no charge for our materials. We are sending you a Bible, Bible Study and Basic Catechism. "So, we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5:20

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

One must first have faith in Jesus in order to preach Him and His salvation, a personal experience with the Savior and His redemption from sin for goodness, communion, and eternal life. If not, earthly endeavors of administration, structures, politics will substitute in the life of the priest regardless of his rank in the clerical order.

When I met with the bishop of Venice, I told him that while politics might be mentioned around election time to assist Catholics in promoting the truth of Jesus, yet I preach Christ and Him crucified for our salvation.

PRO-LIFE

Peace With God... It seems to me our country is in big trouble. Evil and sin are spreading throughout the entire world. We need to do something to fix it. We need to Listen to and Trust in God. We need to Help and Respect each other. We need to put an END to abortion. We need to Save the family unit. We need more politicians we can Trust and Respect. We are all God's children, regardless of race or religion. Eventually, God's Patience with us will end. Remember reading about Sodom and Gomorrah? Their sins were so grave that God destroyed both cities. We have been warned about things to come but we don't know when they will happen. Only God does. We need to pray to God

St. Dismas Guild: 501(c)(3) non-profit organization ~ PO Box 2129 Escondido CA 92033
Evangelization through Scripture and Ministry to prisons. ~ www.StDismasGuild.org
On Facebook and Twitter @StDismasGuild

and make peace with Him before it's too late.
Pro-LifeArticles.org

SACRED TRADITION

The Churches dedication for November:

"...is dedicated to the **Souls in Purgatory**, whose feast is celebrated on November 2. With the exception of the last three days, the entire month of November falls during the liturgical season known as **Ordinary Time**, which is represented by the liturgical color green. Green is the symbol of Hope, as it 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. The last portion of the liturgical year represents the time of our Pilgrimage to Heaven during which we Hope for reward. The last Sunday, which marks the beginning of **Advent** the liturgical color changes to purple, representing a time of penance." (catholicculture.org)

A Few FEAST DAYS:

Nov. 1st - All Saints - Today the Church celebrates all the saints: canonized or beatified, and the multitude of those who are in Heaven enjoying the beatific vision that are only known to God.

Nov. 2nd - All Souls, also known as the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed and the Day of the Dead, is a day of prayer and remembrance for the souls of those who have died.

Nov. 13th - St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Patron: hospital administrators; immigrants; orphans.

Nov. 29th - First Sunday of Advent. A new liturgical year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the Faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord.

Nov. 30th - St. Andrew, Patron: fishermen; singers; sore throats; unmarried women; women who wish to become mothers.

*"I remind you, my daughter, that as often as you hear the clock strike **the third hour**, immerse yourself completely in My mercy, adoring and glorifying it; invoke its omnipotence for the whole world, and particularly for poor sinners; for at that moment mercy was open wide for every soul. In this hour you can obtain everything for yourself and for others for the asking; it was **the hour of grace** for the whole world - mercy triumphed over justice." (1572, page 558) ~ Jesus, from St. Faustina Diary*

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 you for the upcoming Sunday Mass readings. **We begin Cycle C at the end of November.** Request yours today...*

We hope to be in our New Location this month and we thank you for all your prayers to help us get to this point.

*Blessings,
St. Dismas Guild*

*"Blessed be the Lord, HE has come to HIS people and set them free..."
Canticle of Zechariah*

