

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

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St. Dismas Guild ~ Prison Ministry

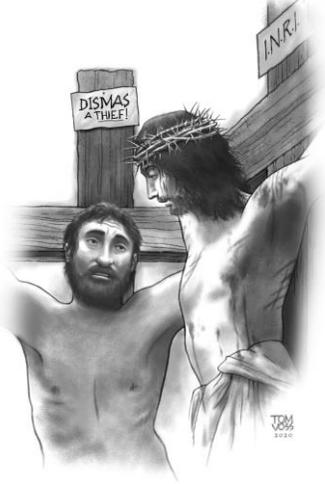
“Lord, when did I see you ...in prison, and not help you?” Matt. 25:44

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.

*“O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us to-day. Amen.”*

December 2021



TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild Prison Ministry, my name is B.S., and I am housed at the state prison. I was shown a copy of your newsletter and it is inspiring. The articles on preserving life and how the tiny bit we make means that some of us could give of it seems as great as in Corinthians and Mark. Thank you for that reminder. I feel very blessed to find out you offer bibles and bible study workbooks. I have a life recovery bible and a July Magnificat and have wanted to learn more about the Catholic Church. My grandfather was Catholic, and I have always been seeking the way of Jesus Our Savior in his memory. **The teachings of Jesus bring me hope in this dark prison.**

I was baptized at our chapel, and they said, *“Daughter of Christ, go and sin no more.”* I have tried to keep my word although it is very hard in prison not to be displeasing to God. The Lord took me off the streets and gave me the time to be healed from the wounds of my past. **I found Him in prison and wish to walk with Him for the rest of my mortal days.**

Please teach me more about Catholicism. I spend a lot of time in contemplation and prayer. I love Jesus and Our Father God. I seek your counsel and want to learn more about the church. The bible study workbook and learning about Lauds, Vespers and the Mass would be most helpful. I have a little money from my job in the mental health section for women. I want to donate because your newsletter found its way to me and inspired me with its hope and love. I pray that St. Dismas Guild continue to reach inmates with messages of the Lord Jesus and His teachings of peace and hope. Bless you for all you do to help, B.S.

Dear B.S., it must be difficult for you being in prison during Christmas. Christmas is a time of joy and giving and we receive the most wonderful gift of all when we receive Christ into our hearts on Christmas morning. Thank you for

*your gift to us. This is a time of giving, giving our heart to Jesus. Your time in contemplation and prayer and getting to know Jesus and His all-powerful Word has motivated you to want to give. As you come to know Him and obey His Word you will come to know His Spirit is guiding and directing you to the Church. Jesus has given His pierced heart pouring out love and forgiveness for all who will accept Him. He came into this world as a baby, born of a virgin, growing, and living in a family to ultimately die and rise on the third day to sit at the right hand of our Father. We are the Church. Jesus says, **“I came that they might have life and have it to the full.”** (John 10:10) Let others continue to see the light of Christ in you. As St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta says, **“Let your light shine! Jesus asks this of us all. But to keep a lamp burning we have to keep putting oil in it. Pray. Pray. Pray.”** Thank you for your prayers and for your giving heart.*

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St. Dismas Guild, I hope this letter finds you and your families safe, healthy, and blessed. I have been blessed by your Bible Study workbooks for the last few years. Your studies have helped me grow as a person and **strengthened my walk with Christ.** Thanks to your lessons I am a New Person through Christ.

Thank you so much for being in my life and giving me the tools, I've needed for my new self. I currently have 16 to 18 months remaining on my federal prison sentence, and I recently received another blessing. The Federal Board of Prisons has reduced my security points and I will be sent to a “Camp” to finish my last year and a half. A camp is a prison that everyone incarcerated wants to get to, but very few ever do. A “Camp” is a prison of 75 – 125 inmates with no fences and inmates can get a job in the community. Needless to say, I'm super excited. That being said, I have no idea when I will be shipped out of here. It could be tomorrow or in three months. Either way, I must be prepared. I can only take three books with me, so I have completed my studies and sent the workbooks home. My Bible and Concordance is my must to take with me. Thank you so much again and I look forward

to speaking to you again. I have enclosed my email address so should you want to keep in touch once I am out of here, we can. ...Take care and I'll write you soon. God Bless. C.L.

Dear C.L., We can provide the tools, but you must do the work. By studying God's Word and putting it into practice, you are becoming the man God created you to be. The prison officials must also see the changes in you by giving you this opportunity. As Saint Paul writes "... put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth." Ephesians 4:24

Since you are in transition, this newsletter and all future ones will be coming to you through the email address that you provided. Since you will have access to a computer, you are welcome to visit our website StDismasGuild.org. There you will find the weekly Bible Study lessons and a podcast of the weekly studies presented by Marie Finn, the co-founder of St. Dismas Guild. You may also enjoy praying the Lectio Divina to increase your closeness to God.

Congratulations and keep up the good work. As you have been blessed, bless others. "Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not His benefits." Psalm 103:2

PRO-LIFE

"Even if abortion were made easy or painless for everyone, it wouldn't change the bottom-line problem that abortion kills children."

"When a man steals to satisfy hunger, we may safely conclude that there is something wrong in society. So, when a woman destroys the life of her unborn child, it is evidence that either by education or circumstances she has been greatly wronged."

"I believe that life is a sacred gift of God and should be treated as such." *U.S. Representative*

Pro-LifeArticles.org

DEACON KEN'S CORNER

Letter from the late Deacon Ken Finn, dated May 1982.

After receiving my chaplaincy training at Mercy Hospital in 1979 I began receiving requests to visit inmates at the local county jail in Vista, California. It really opened my eyes to the need for the Gospel of Jesus Christ among inmates at all the jails in San Diego County, as indeed every Penal Institution in this country. Since then, God has opened many doors in this much needed ministry.

Recently, I received a letter from an inmate who was convicted of murder and sent to state prison who related the impact of the healing power of Jesus in his life. "I think often about Vista and the work you're doing there. Those months I spent there with the toughest I've ever faced, and I want you to know that you helped me an awful lot. I especially remember the time we knelt down in that little visiting room and prayed together. I knew the Lord heard that prayer, and on that day, I knew that no matter what happened, I would come out of this a stronger person. Your prayers, encouragement, and your faith in me had a lot to do with that. So please keep up your work. I know there are a lot more guys there who need you."

We are committed to this ministry to reach the imprisoned, the hospitalized, and their families with the message of Love and Encouragement of Jesus and to see their faith grow...

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

What do I do if I'm not able to go to Confession?

The normal way for us to receive Forgiveness and Absolution for our sins is through the sacrament of Penance. When we are not able to take advantage of the sacrament of penance such as in your case because of incarceration and no priest available, then we make a perfect Act of Contrition telling God we're sorry because we love HIM, and our sins offended HIS goodness and our relationship with HIM. I recommend upon your release that you go to church and confession before the priest in Sacramental Confession when you're able to do so.

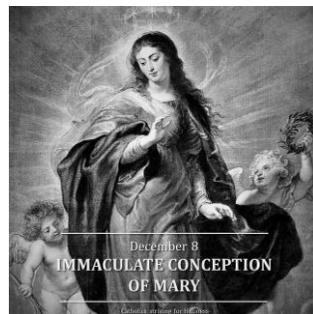
Act of Contrition (traditional)

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you, and I detest all my sins because of your just punishments, but most of all because they offend you, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of your grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

SACRED TRADITION

The Churches Dedication For DECEMBER:

"...is to the **Immaculate Conception of Mary**, which is celebrated on December 8. The first 24 days of December fall during the liturgical season known as **Advent** and are represented by the liturgical color purple — a symbol of penance, mortification, and the sorrow of a contrite heart. The remaining days of December mark the beginning of the **Christmas** season. The liturgical color changes to white or gold — a symbol of joy, purity and innocence." (catholicculture.org)



A Few FEAST DAYS:

Dec. 8th – Immaculate Conception of Mary

Dec. 9th – Juan Diego

Dec. 12th – Our Lady of Guadalupe

Dec. 25th – Christmas

Dec. 27th – Feast of the Holy Family

MESSAGE FROM SDG DIRECTOR

We are now in our New Location, and we look forward to seeing all our Volunteers come back to help. Please call or email us for the new address. Thank you...

A Christmas Blessing; "May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen."

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 began Cycle C at the end of November. Request yours today...**

*Christmas Blessings,
St. Dismas Guild*

