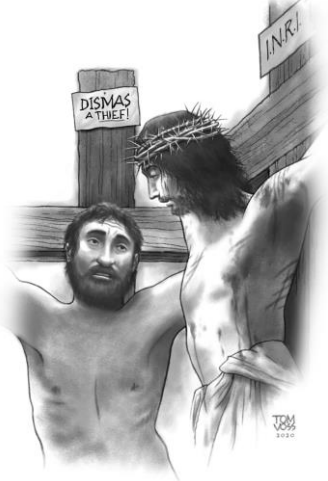


St. Dismas Guild
P.O. Box 2129
Escondido, CA 92033

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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.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; on your own intelligence do not rely; in all your ways be mindful of HIM, and HE will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

January 2022

TESTIMONY

Hello, I received the new bible study in the mail. I can't believe I finished the last one. It was extremely helpful in my growth in **Faith** (fully assured I trust Him). Through the healing eternal blood of Jesus, I've become a real Universal (Catholic) believer. Let me explain. When I was first Baptized in June 2019, I had a strong personal conviction, and I held on tight to my religion. Today I still have a strong conviction, but I dropped the religion part of me, even though I'm rooted in Catholic. Since I **Love** church history, reading books on Saints and the devotion we get out of Mass, the Peace, Salvation, and Belief in Resurrection after Death.

Being Catholic my mind is not focused on worldly blessings. I can mix with other devout denominations now and be wise about my tongue speaking about Catholic stuff. **I just try to say Praise God and be nourishing blood to the members of the Body of Christ who call on the name of Our Lord.** I'm staying away from all religious arguments based on knowledge of the Word. I'm saying apply it to myself from my heart. I joined the prayer call circle now in the dorm. To me it's a small church, a daily worship call. **We do the Sign of Peace; say the Our Father prayer and we Give Thanks every day.** My mind is set on fellowship.

My Church Prison Ministry starts back on Dec. 2nd. I haven't seen them since March 2020. I'm just glad I don't have to get into all those small arguments new believers get into when they first pick up a bible. I'm glad I'm not being someone's personal Savior either. Everybody in prison gets religion. So, it can be a big mess with all the expectations and demands another believer will put on the **Faithful**.

So, I'm sharing my experience, Strength and **Hope** to keep from falling into emotional disparity, by filling my loneliness with a friendship with Man. I'm growing to fill my loneliness with the Holy Spirit and connect that to my relationships. So, my self-esteem and confidence is founded in my personal devotion. My personal devotion is Catholic, and it makes me Strong. **Today I'm filled with**

Faith and Kindness (Love) for other believers. I've been in prison seven years, and I'm **actually feeling free on the Inside...** Blessed be God forever, Jesus Christ is Lord, The Lord is My God, The Lord Alone, Shema Israel. The Lord be with you St. Dismas Guild. Peace, D.C.

*Dear D.C., we are so excited that you are growing in **Faith**. The more you reflect on the word asking the Holy Spirit to teach you, you will grow. “**Faith comes through hearing and what is heard is the Word of God.**” Romans 10:17. You are very wise in staying away from arguments about scripture. God has truly touched your heart through the word and you, and I know that “**the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.**” John 1:14*

*Applying it to yourself from your heart makes you Strong, Loving, and Wise. It's wonderful for us to hear that even in prison you can be set free. Your mind being set on fellowship says you are looking for likeminded believers (those who **Love** God and one another). Thank you for sharing your powerful testimony. **God has truly set you free.** As you set your mind on filling the loneliness with the Holy Spirit He will guide and direct you to all truth. He is reminding you of all Jesus said and did. God bless you.*

Quote from St. Mother Teresa – “In God we live and move and have our being. It is God who gives life to all, who gives power and being to all that exists. But for His sustaining presence, all things would cease to be and fall back into nothingness. Consider that you are in God, surrounded and encompassed by God, swimming in God.”

DEACON KEN'S CORNER

Letter from the late Deacon Ken Finn dated, May 1987. THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD

We often hear the phrase "the power of God's word" and sometimes we may wonder how powerful it is. I share with you an experience I had recently in the prison.

A young woman was in an isolation cell undergoing a "suicide watch." Every so often someone would come by and check on her. The cell was a concrete block room with no windows and only a mat on the floor. She was naked with a heavy wool blanket wrapped around her.

The cell was completely dark when I stopped to say hello. She would not understand English, so I called out a prayer in Spanish, "Dios te Bendiga" which means God bless you. She had not spoken to anyone for quite a while, and she looked as if she were dead. Suddenly she jumped up and in a burst of tears and emotion started to yell, laugh, and cry. I then began to read her scripture in Spanish. She looked as if someone had thrown a bucket of water on her and threw the blanket around her and pressed against the window where I was looking in.

A guard came by and observed what was going on. He said, "you can almost see the spirit of evil coming out of her, can't you?" He then asked me if I wanted to go inside and pray with her. This spirit filled Christian deputy saw what was happening. The power of God was healing this woman through the reading of scripture. The woman could not understand me. I stepped in and prayed over her, and she calmed down. She smiled at me, and her hair was soaked. I gave her some spiritual reading material in Spanish and left. As I was leaving, she put her hand on my arm and said, señor, Dios te Bendiga. She said, sir, God bless you, and there was no doubt in my mind or in the deputies about the power of God's word.

SACRED TRADITION

The Churches Dedication For JANUARY:

"...is dedicated to the **Holy Name of Jesus**, which is celebrated on January 3. The first nine days of January fall during the liturgical season known as **Christmas** which is represented by the liturgical color white — the color of

Σ ALPHA & OMEGA
IA
Christ teacher
THE WORD MASTER
the almighty SON
LORD OF Saviors MAN
HEALER OF LORDS mediator comfortor
HEALERS ADVOCATE rock
messiah Jesus
ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

light, a symbol of Joy, Purity, and Innocence (absolute or restored). The remaining days of January are the beginning 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. It is used in the offices and Masses of Ordinary Time. (catholicculture.org)

A Few FEAST DAYS:

Jan. 1st – **Mary, Mother of God**

Jan. 3rd – **The Epiphany of the Lord**

Jan. 10th – **Baptism of the Lord**

Jan. 22nd – **Day of Prayer for the Unborn**

Jan. 25th – **Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle** - (67 A.D.)

Patron Saint of: Missions; Theologians; Gentile Christians.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

Satan's Messages and the 3 A's...

Jesus shows God's Patience and Love in **John 3:16**, "For God so Loved the world that HE gave HIS only

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Evangelization through Scripture and Ministry to prisons. ~ www.StDismasGuild.org

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begotten Son, that whoever believe in HIM shall not die but have eternal life."

In HIS own temptation, Jesus shows how to frustrate the devil by resisting temptation thus moving the devil to retreat. In **James 4**, "So submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Also read **1 Peter 5**.

Sometimes persons suffering oppression, depression and similar feelings cannot or do not bring themselves to God. In these cases, the Christian can bring the sufferer to God through prayer, as well as offering Kindness and Encouragement to counter the false message of Satan with the Truth of God.

I see faults in others all the time. In confession or spiritual direction, it might be right to point them out. The rest of the time, it is better to counter them with the 3 A's

ATTENTION: Greeting the person with a smile on my face and whatever warmth in my heart that I can muster.

AFFECTION: An expression of Love proper to our relationship.

APPROVAL: Saying something edifying rather than critical.

PRO-LIFE

"Human rights are not a privilege conferred by government. They are every human being's entitlement by virtue of his humanity. The right to life does not depend, and must not be contingent, on the pleasure of anyone else, not even a parent or sovereign... you must weep that your own government, at present, seems blind to this truth." **St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta** Pro-LifeArticles.org

St. Dismas Guild Rosary for Life meets every Friday from 10:30 - 11:30am in front of Planned Parenthood in Escondido, CA.

Reminder - Jan. 22nd – Day of Prayer for the Unborn

MESSAGE FROM SDG DIRECTOR

How to write a Testimonial: We welcome personal Testimonies and questions for our Spiritual Director for the Newsletter, though we cannot publish each one we receive. Please write and tell us your story.

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?
- Please limit your testimony to 500 words.

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...

A New Year's Blessing: "Shine YOUR Light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for YOUR Glory and Purposes. Set YOUR way before us. May all YOUR plans succeed. We may reflect YOUR Peace and Hope to a world that so desperately needs YOUR Presence and Healing. To YOU be Glory and Honor, in this New Year, and forever. Amen."

New Years Blessings from all of us here at St. Dismas Guild

