

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

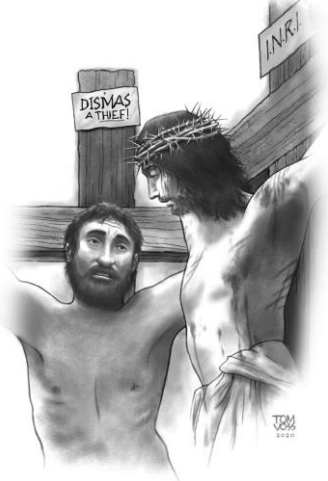
St. Dismas Guild is a nonprofit organization which provides Catholic Bibles and Bible Study workbooks, etc., free of charge, to inmates.

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

“Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we Love you, save souls.”

Every time you say that prayer you are saving someone from damnation.

February 2022



TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, I hope to find you in the best of health and care. Your November newsletter arrived, and I thank you. I'm especially grateful for the Pro-Life and the Sacred Tradition sections of the publication. The moral and social teachings of the church are just as important as the spiritual teachings.

I'm a convert to the Catholic Church. But my life with Christ did not start out that way. **It was while I was incarcerated angry, lonely, and hopeless that I realized I needed Jesus in my life.** Televangelists helped me understand who Jesus was and what He did for us. Christian pen-pals taught me about the Lord's Love for us.

But there came a point where the Protestant brothers could no longer answer my questions. Their answer to my questions was just to have faith.

I found a Catechism of the Catholic Church book in the dayroom along with an apologetics book. My questions were being answered and when I came across the section on the Sacraments, I felt that I had already accomplished a part of what the Lord wanted me to do. **I now had to confess and start taking Communion to receive sanctifying grace for salvation.** I started watching Catholic TV more and reading a Catholic bible to get more answers.

When I moved to another prison, I got my first Rosary and it was such a powerful moment for me. I felt like I had what I'd been missing and what I would need along with my Bible in my Christian life. Next was my first Mass. Before it began, I spoke to the priest about confession. I'd learned how important it was to confess for salvation and also to be able to receive Holy Communion which is a means of salvation too. That was my first Mass and the first time I received the Lord's Body and Blood.

There was no going back, I was now Catholic. In the Lord's church I learned to love Jesus so much more and

worship Him with great devotion. I learned to surrender and be obedient. I learned how to deal with my imperfections and truly repent of my sins. I've also led prayer groups on the Rosary, Chaplet, Lectio Divina and one on one. I facilitated a catechism class and held apologetic discourses weekly to help strengthen the brothers in their faith while being able to clearly give a reason for their faith. My Lord Jesus has been with me since then.

One thing that still concerns me and discourages me at times is that many of our Catholic brothers lack that unity and closeness that I felt and see the Protestants have. Don't get me wrong, it is there and their devotion to Our Lord and Mother Mary speaks to their Faith, Hope and Love, but it isn't as close and united as the Body of Christ should be. At least it's been that way in my experience. Ministries like yours are a model of true faith and good works that our Catholic Church is known best for and not the false rap the enemy has given it. Can you please bless me with the Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study – Cycle C? Thank you. God Bless. M.M.

Dear M.M., when you were at your lowest point and acknowledged that you needed Jesus in your life, He provided you with many graces and opportunities to learn about Him with the help of our Protestant brothers and sisters. As you studied and prayed, God led you to the fullness of the Catholic faith which you enthusiastically accepted. In Luke 12:48, Jesus tells us, “Much will be required of the person entrusted with much...” You are using your time well in leading prayer groups and catechizing the men but maybe the Holy Spirit has more plans for you.

You said you miss the closeness and unity that you felt with your Protestant brothers. Have you considered beginning a Catholic men's group to have fellowship? Everyone has a story, and we experience so much by just listening to each other. By getting to know about each other's lives and how each came to know Jesus, you can build that unity and closeness that you feel is missing. You might name your group after a saint whose qualities you

admire and want to imitate. It will take time and effort to build the trust of your Catholic brothers, but the rewards will be great. *“Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you do.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11.*

DEACON KEN'S CORNER

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

“BE NOT AFRAID...”

Frank said, “Chaplain I know that the Lord wants to use me to spread HIS word, even here in jail and I’m not afraid.” Frank then went out from his holding cell into the courtroom and heard the judge sentenced him to 26 years to life for first-degree murder. That night Frank and I prayed that the Lord would indeed bless him and his response to God’s word. Frank again said to me, **“Chaplain I am not afraid because I have put my life into the Lord’s hand, wherever HE leads me I will follow.”**

I believe Frank. My prayers will be with him and his family wherever he is sent to pay for his crime.

“BLESSED ARE THE MEEK...”

Some think being gentle and meek is being weak and wishy-washy. Meekness in a man or woman incarcerated can be uncomfortable and sometimes even dangerous to their own welfare. A deputy’s example of gentleness, firmness, and fairness is still the strongest example of Christ in the penal system that I have seen. I have been blessed to be serving in a jail where there are so many Christian examples of Christ within the staff.

I urge you to pray for the men and women who work at these prison facilities were pain, loneliness, and even death is constantly in evidence.

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR FEBRUARY: “...is dedicated to the **Holy Family**. The



special devotion which proposes the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the model of virtue of all Christian households began in the 17th century. ... The feast was welcomed by succeeding Pontiffs as an efficacious means for bringing home to the Christian people the example of the Holy Family at Nazareth, and by the restoration of the true spirit of family life, stemming, in some measure, the evils of

present-day society. ~ catholicculture.org

A Few FEAST DAYS:

Feb. 2nd - Presentation of the Lord

Feb. 11th - Our Lady of Lourdes

Feb. 14th - St. Valentine

Feb. 22nd - Feast of Chair of St. Peter

March 2nd - Ash Wednesday - Lent begins

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

“Exorcist Diary: Mentally Tormented by Demons” We priests encounter all sorts of behaviors, complaints, and problems among God’s people.

Not infrequently people who cannot or will not come to Mass, who are easily offended, who have all sorts of

anxieties, who are controlled by memories, and many more issues, come before us. Unfortunately for family and friends, their anxieties spill over in vitriol against us as well. We have the tendency to take it personally as a fault of our own, as if we caused the reaction against us when it spills over affecting our relationships.

Monsignor Stephen Rossetti is both a psychologist and exorcist. He gives some insight for our understanding and loving those so afflicted. *“It is becoming apparent to me that more than a few of those mentally tormented by their sins and failings of the past are actually suffering from demonic obsessions...”* Look for his article titled, **“Exorcist Diary: Mentally Tormented by Demons”**

PRO-LIFE

“Mothers Rarely Make an ‘Informed’ Choice on Abortion - More than 93% of all induced abortions are done out of "choice" and not for medical reasons (such as the health of the mother).

Abortion clinics, such as Planned Parenthood, have a vested financial interest in the decision made by the mother. Those at these clinics who “counsel” women on their "options" often act as if abortion is the only alternative. As a result, mothers rarely make an informed choice,

In fact, it is no doubt true to say that no other medical procedure is performed with the same degree of patient ignorance than an abortion. This is plainly wrong. There is no good reason why any woman should go through surgery of any kind, particularly induced abortion, or even take powerful drugs to induce an abortion and not be informed about potentially serious side effects,

Thus, mothers are rarely told the potential physical and mental health problems and other complications associated with abortion. They also are, variably ignorant about their child in the womb, and most importantly, are hardly ever afforded the opportunity to see their child on ultrasound.

Surgical abortions are usually not performed before seven weeks, or 49 days LMP. At 25 days, the child has regular heart beats. By 28 days, the whole embryo is formed: head, eyes, ears, mouth, and a blood stream separate from the mothers. At 9 weeks, the child has complete fingers, toes, and unique prints. At 12 weeks, the baby kicks, frowns, swallows, reacts to being touched and starts to suck.

Expectant mothers rarely receive this and other important information before making a decision on abortion!” *Pro-LifeArticles.com*

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...

*Peace of Christ be with you,
St. Dismas Guild*

