

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

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St. Dismas Guild ~ Prison Ministry

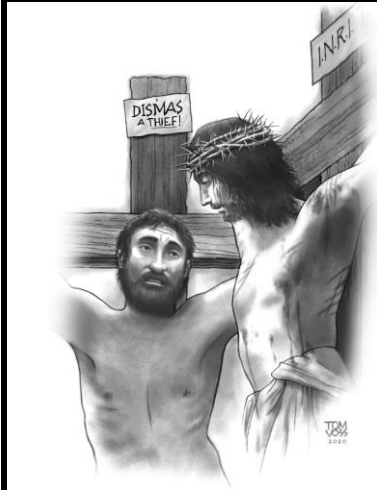
“Lord, when did I see you ...in prison, and not help you?” Matt. 25:44

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.

We have been Blessed over many years by one Sponsor in particular and wish to extend our deepest appreciation to A1 Self Storage - www.A1Storage.com

March 2022



TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, greetings to all and a special greeting for those who call upon the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

My parents baptized me when I was a baby into the Roman Catholic Church. Sadly, as I grew up, I had no knowledge of my faith and God's Word. I was sexually abused by my grandfather when I was in second grade. My life was centered around an endless party from the age of 14 until I was arrested at the age of 37. My drug of choice was cocaine, meth and alcohol. I couldn't read the writing on the wall for what would happen. But my last three DUIs should have been a road map to the black-out I had later. I killed a young boy riding his bicycle within the fenced front yard of his home. I then drove off, leaving him behind in the wake of my mayhem and destruction. It wasn't a surprise that in court the full weight of the law was imposed upon me. At the all-time lowest period in my life in the county jail, I picked up a Bible and read it for the first time in my life.

When I read the Bible, I cried many times knowing in my heart that this was the truth I was missing from my own life. My soul was in the worst shape for what I had done, and I believed in the name of Jesus Christ. I wanted to know Him more personally and I invited Him into my life. **Through His Word and promises I became a child of the Most High**, for I did believe who He said He is and I now pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Now my life, after serving so many years in prison, is rich and meaningful.

When I tell my story in safe places the shame dies little by little. I always remember two quotes from Mother Teresa: "God didn't command us to do great things, just little things with great love." And her other quote is "If you judge people, you have no time to love them." And so I pray and let God worry about things. L.C.

Dear L.C., how blessed you are that your parents had you baptized while you were a baby. You received the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit that day when you were anointed with the holy oil. It is sad you grew up without knowledge of

your faith and God's word. Hosea 4:6 says, "My people perish for lack of knowledge." You were on the road to destruction because you did not know the truth. God is the one who got you to where you are today after 27 years in prison. He got you through the sexual abuse, the drugs, even murder of a child. God touched your life when you picked up the bible and He touched you with His forgiving love.

So many times, when reading the bible, we are convicted of our sins and come into tears over the destruction we caused because of what was done. When tears of repentance come His love is poured into you. He is saying to you, "Come to me all you who find life burdensome, and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart." Matthew 11:28

Tears of repentance come when Jesus touches you with His love. God loves you and has touched your life, you belong to Him. As you reverence Him you will give Him the honor due His name and bring others to Him. Thank you for your beautiful Testimony of how God is working in your life making you productive even in prison. We at St. Dismas Guild love St. Mother Teresa too.

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear Guild-folk, Hello! How y'all doing? Good I pray. I'm doing better than I have any right to. God is Good, Amen. **I just finished reading Overcoming Compulsive Behavior by Marie Finn. It was awesome.** As an alcoholic and addict I know a thing or 10 about compulsive behavior. Overcoming it not so much. But I'm learning and this book has been a GREAT help. I can't thank you enough. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.

I've received many resources from you over the years and have been blessed by each and every one of them. However, every time I have transferred, I've lost at least a dozen books and booklets among other things. So, I have lost much of what I received from you. Including the booklet Overcoming Sexual Abuse which I have found to be extremely helpful as well. It is one of those resources that I reference again and again over the years. I have been on both sides of the abuse at various times in my life. Could

you please send me another copy? I would be enormously grateful.

Thanks again for all you do for all of us. God Love You All and Good night. J.L.

Dear J.L., we are pleased the book Overcoming Compulsive Behavior helped you with addiction and alcoholism. Being on both sides of the sexual abuse at various times in your life is very difficult to overcome. **“For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26.** When you turn to God and look to His way of living your life you can be an overcomer of anything. **Philippians 4:13** says, **“I have the strength for everything through Him who empowers me.”** You have turned to God and are on your way to healing and wholeness. We are praying for you and all addicts, alcoholics, and sexual abusers. We are sending you another copy of these books. Thank you and may God bless you and keep you, may He let his face shine on you and be gracious to you, may He look upon you kindly and give you peace.

DEACON KEN'S CORNER

Letter from the late Deacon Ken Finn dated, September 1982. LOVE ONE ANOTHER...

The rise in sex offenders is an alarming one and the need to bring the presence of God to these people is very critical. I find it heart breaking to talk with young men and women who are involved in homosexuality, perversion, rape, molestation, incest, and child abuse. These types of crimes are not only horrible to those outside of prison, but also to those inside. These people are generally in what is known as protective custody.

I tell you this so that you can realize how much we need to turn to Jesus Christ, how much we need to bring the spiritual values of our faith to our children. I tell you this, so that you will find compassion and even forgiveness towards these people. I tell you this so that you will be aware and concerned for the victims of these crimes. The victims and their families in your neighborhood need your love, your support, and your compassion. The sex offenders and their families need your love, support, and compassion too. Jesus commands us to love one another as He loved us, and this means loving the unlovable ones too.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

Question about Receiving Holy Communion without going to Confession, since being Baptized...

Since you cannot go to confession, and you have a desire to do so confess all your sins directly to Jesus. Then you may go to holy communion; but once you are able to partake of the sacrament of confession then reveal to the priest all those sins that you have committed since your baptism. Then whenever you can I suggest confession at least once a month but definitely during the Easter time or Lent.

Act of Contrition (alternate form)

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things.

I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.

Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

PRO-LIFE

“O Mary, Mother of Jesus, and Mother of us all, we turn to you today as the one who said "Yes" to Life. "You will conceive and bear a Son," the angel told you. Despite the surprise and the uncertainty about how this

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

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could be, you said yes. "Be it done unto me according to your word."

“Mary, we pray today for all mothers who are afraid to be mothers. We pray for those who feel threatened and overwhelmed by their pregnancy. Intercede for them, that God may give them the grace to say yes and the courage to go on. May they have the grace to reject the false solution of abortion. May they say with you, "Be it done unto me according to your word." May they experience the help of Christian people and know the peace that comes from doing God's will. Amen.”

SACRED TRADITION

The Churches Dedication for March:

The **Solemnity of St. Joseph** is a special landmark this month in which we will celebrate the great honor bestowed upon the foster father of Jesus. Also, the Solemnity of the Annunciation (March 25) when we ponder Our Lady's fiat.

Except for the first day, the entire month of March falls during the liturgical season of Lent which is represented by the liturgical color violet or purple – a symbol of penance, mortification, and the sorrow of a contrite heart. All saints' days that are usually Memorials are shifted to Optional Memorials during the season of Lent.

A Few FEAST DAYS:

March 2nd – Ash Wednesday

March 17th – St. Patrick died in 461.

March 19th – St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

March 25th – Annunciation of the Lord

March 25th – St. Dismas was the so-called “Good Thief”

who was crucified along with another thief and Jesus on the hill called Golgotha on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Writing centuries apart, two Church Fathers, Tertullian and Augustine, claimed that the three died on **March 25, the date that was designated as Dismas's Feast Day.**

The Gospel of Luke relates Jesus' conversation with the two thieves...

Jesus is taunted by one thief, who challenges Jesus, **“Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us.”**

Luke 23:39 But the other thief ...acknowledges that Jesus is the Messiah, by saying to Him, **“Jesus,**

remember me when you come into your kingdom.” **Luke 23:42** To which Jesus replies, **“Amen, I say to you today,**

you will be with me in paradise.” **Luke 23:43**

<https://ucatholic.com/saints/saint-dismas/>

ST. DISMAS IS THE PATRON SAINT of Prisoners, Repentant Criminals – murderers, thieves, prostitute's, etc., and those condemned to death.

MESSAGE FROM SDG DIRECTOR

“Dear St Dismas Guild, just a quick note to say thank you for **The Bread of Life Bible Study**. Your ministry has been truly a blessing to me and other prisoners who you serve with Newsletters, Bibles, reading material, and Bible Studies. I enjoy your newsletter especially the testimonies. They seem to bring light in a dark place which I am sure is their purpose. Your ministry is so loved in here. May God bless you with Wisdom, Light, and Divine Favor through Jesus, the Wisdom of God. Sincerely, W.S.”

We encourage you to participate in The Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study workbook, Request yours today, free of charge to inmates...

Peace of Christ be with you,

St. Dismas Guild

