

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](http://www.StDismasGuild.org)  
or by mail, PO Box 2129, Escondido, CA, 92033.

**40 years of Newsletters.**

**Deacon Ken Finn began writing the SDG Newsletter in May 1982!!!**

**May 2022**



### TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, I am writing to tell you how thankful I am for the NEWSLETTERS you send me. I like reading about the testimonies and the scriptures you put in the letters. I didn't know anything about God when I was on the outside. **I became a Catholic while in prison.** I have been locked up since 2005. I've been through some struggles throughout the years. I have realized I have made it this far in this prison life, thanks to God. He has always been there for me, looking out for me, and now, as we come into this New Year 2022. I have a little under 1-1/2 years till I see parole. I have prayed to God, and I am asking Him to help me make a big change in my life and help me do everything I need to do for parole. Also, can He help me get ready for the world out there.

I know change is hard. We get used to doing things and living a certain way. But for myself, I know it's necessary in order for me to move forward in life. Honestly, I don't know what to expect. I am a bit nervous and a bit scared. I do work on being a good person, a selfless person, asking God to humble me. My dream is to be a writer and I have asked God to help me with my dream throughout all of this. **I know I have to do my part too. It isn't easy but it's something I am willing to do.** I've been locked up since I was young. I know my life can't always be like this, living in prison. I have Hope and Faith that there is something good out there for me. There is light at the end of this tunnel and that light is God. I believe with God at my side I can accomplish anything.

So, I take one step a day in moving forward with my life. I ask if you can pray for me to fulfill my dreams and to do good in life. Also, for courage to keep on going even when life seems hard and depressing. Thank you.

If I may ask, can you please send me a Catholic prayer book? I would also like a prayer card of St. Francis. I Love his prayer of Peace and Love. And also, I'd like a prayer card of the Guardian Angel. Thank you so much and thank you for your time reading my letter. May God bless you with His Love. E.Z.

*Dear E.Z., thank you for writing us and sharing how God is working in your life in the prison system. You say you have Hope and Faith that there is something good out there for you. **“Faith comes through hearing, and what is heard is the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)** Staying close to Jesus through the word of God and fellowship with other believers is essential for anyone getting out of prison. God will drive any fear out of you. **“Fear is useless, what is needed is trust.” (Luke 8:50).** God is the only one who is good. Jesus said in **Luke 19:19, “Why call me ‘good’? None is good but God alone.”** That good is right within you. You're right E.Z. with God all things are possible, and you can accomplish anything. **“Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you.” (Luke 11:9)***

*We are praying for you that this year and a half will go quickly and you will be paroled, in the meantime stay close to Jesus in the Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study and when you get out and go to Mass, you will be able to participate to the fullness through the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, Jesus' real presence Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. God bless you.*

### DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Blessings from God and our Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for the Bible Study El Pan de Vida that you sent me. It was difficult to follow at first, but I kept trying and I have to say I really like it very much and I am very grateful. I really like how it is structured with the readings and the homily message of the Sunday Mass and how it applies to my life and to my week thank you very much. **I realize now how much I need to learn about my Faith** and this Bible Study is very helpful. Blessings, H.G.

Dear H.G., Studying Scripture can be a little daunting without guidance. Soon after the Resurrection of Christ, Saint Philip saw a court official reading a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He asked him **“Do you understand what you are reading?”** He replied, **“How can I, unless someone instructs me? Acts 8:30-31.** We are so glad you

did not give up on the Bible Study. Continue to use it for instruction and guidance. God will reveal so much to you through the Bible passages. In a lifetime, no one can ever know all there is to know about our awesome God.

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Dear Sir or Madam, I am an Inmate Facilitator for the Catholic Church here on my unit. You have provided me with the Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study for years, as well as your NEWSLETTERS for which I am grateful. **I Love the commentaries in the bible study for each week and find them most helpful and useful** for those times when we do not have a Priest or Deacon.

Now my question, I have a friend who is on my set-up team whose primary language is Spanish. English is difficult for him, particularly written English, hence my writing for him. He is in need of a Spanish Catholic Bible. To be honest, I don't even know if you can supply one, but my hopes are high. If you have one to send, please send it to me so that I may pass it on to him.

Once again, I appreciate all you do and thank you for your time and efforts for those of us who are in such need of the Good News! God Bless! J.K

Dear J.K., St. Dismas Guild provides Bibles, the Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study and the Basic Catechism in English and in Spanish. We will be happy to send these books to your friend, but the request must come directly from him, we do not send books to third parties. Please have him write to us with his request and be sure he specifies that he is requesting Spanish materials.

God bless you in your work of evangelization at the prison. **"...he should know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins."** James 5:20

### SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

**INMATE QUESTION** – "will innocence be restored in heaven?"

*With Jesus, even lost innocence is restored in this life. At the Easter Vigil during the "Exultet" prayer, this is affirmed. Here is the stanza where it is sung: "The sanctifying power of this night dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners, drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty."*

### DEACON KEN'S CORNER

**LETTER FROM THE LATE DEACON KEN FINN, dated May 1983.**

May God's blessings continue to be poured out to you as we celebrate the first anniversary of St Dismas Guild. I can hardly believe that a year has gone by since we first began our shared ministry. I use the word "shared" very deliberately because your sharing of your prayers, time, and financial support with me has helped bring the healing message of Jesus Christ to many people. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support and I hope the Lord will leave you with a burden on your heart to continue in this exciting and very much needed ministry.

I remember the very first worship service that I participated in at the jail, a locked assembly room full of inmates and a very frightened little preacher. As I stood there wondering how I should begin a big strong handsome young black inmate yelled out, "All right, Rev., let's hear what you got!" Since then, the Lord has blessed us with many signs of healing power.

...what do you think of your newsletter? What do you think we could add to make it more meaningful to you? Because HE lives, you and I will always be able to face tomorrow. I also welcome all our new supporters and give praise to our Lord for your presence!

### SACRED TRADITION

**THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR MAY:** is to **The Blessed Virgin Mary. "THE MONTH OF MARY."** The entire month of May falls within the liturgical season of **Easter**, which is represented by the liturgical color white — the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity, and innocence (absolute or restored).

**The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of May 2022**

**For Faith-filled young people:** We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that Faith generates, and the dedication to service.



~ [www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)

### A Few FEAST DAYS:

- May 1<sup>st</sup> – **St. Joseph** the Worker
  - May 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Sts. Philip and James**, Apostles.
  - May 13<sup>th</sup> – **Our Lady of Fatima**
  - May 14<sup>th</sup> – **St. Matthias**, Apostle
  - May 26<sup>th</sup> – **Ascension** Thursday
  - May 29<sup>th</sup> – **Ascension** Sunday
- ~ [catholicculture.org](http://catholicculture.org)

### PRO-LIFE

**"ANY COUNTRY THAT ACCEPTS ABORTION** is not teaching its people to Love, but to use violence to get what they want. That is why the greatest destroyer of Love and Peace is abortion" – St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

~ [Pro-Life Articles.org](http://Pro-Life Articles.org)

### FROM THE DIRECTOR

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE INMATES** who have provided their testimonies and appreciation letters over these 40 years. You have helped to make our NEWSLETTERS a success and touched so many lives with your stories.

Oh Lord, I offer to you, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and in union with the Holy Mass throughout the world, all my joys, works, and suffering's, of this day, in reparations for my sins and sins of the whole world. I ask for your abundant blessings to be poured out upon all my family and friends, any special intentions they may have, especially for those who have asked for my prayers (especially the inmates), those who deny your Love and Mercy, and those who will die this day. I ask all this in Jesus name, through the intercession of Mary and Joseph, Amen.

*A Blessed Easter Season to you all,  
St. Dismas Guild*

