

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

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St. Dismas Guild ~ Prison Ministry

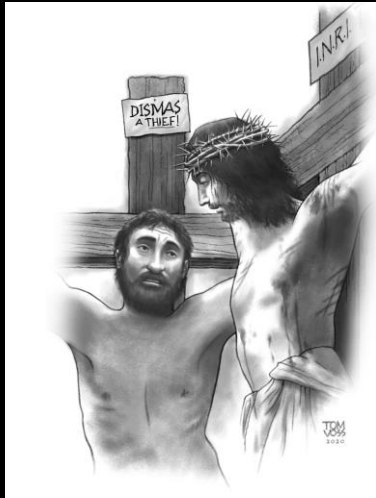
“Lord, when did I see you ...in prison, and not help you?” Matt. 25:44

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.

“Eternal Father, I offer Thee the most **Precious Blood of Jesus Christ**, in satisfaction for my sins, in supplication for the holy souls in Purgatory and for the needs of Holy Church, especially for...”

July 2022



TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, my name is R.P. and I'm currently in the county jail where I've been for a long time. In that time, I've picked up the Bible and have been studying it. And I'm so grateful for that. Since I was 22, I've been abusing drugs and alcohol. I've always held jobs and relationships, but I just could never get away from the drugs and booze. The last five years prior to being in jail, my drug use got a lot worse and has led me to being in here. I never thought in a million years that I would be here for what I am, but the drugs messed up my head.

But I keep telling myself that the worst thing that ever happened to me is the best because I am now sober and clean, and I've found the Bible and Jesus Christ. And that's the best thing that's ever happened to me. The reason I'm writing you is that I don't have a lot of support on the outside so I'm looking for information on free Bible study courses, daily devotionals, Christian pen pals and free Christian books. Anything to get me closer to the Lord would be greatly appreciated and used. I want to learn all I can about Jesus Christ and the Bible. I'm going to end this letter with a Bible Scripture I like.

“And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying, Friend, let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye, when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.” That's just one of many I like. Well, hopefully, I'll hear back soon with information on the things I requested. Please, and thank you. R.P.

Dear R.P., you chose a great scripture to live by. At times we are all critical, we point out the faults of others and compare ourselves to others thinking 'I'm not as bad as they are'. That is the way of the world, but Jesus tells us in a memorable way that we are to first examine ourselves and realize how great our own sins are. The faults of others will

become small by comparison, and we will become more kind and compassionate people.

R.P., Jesus has been with you all through your years of drug and alcohol abuse. Now that you are clean and sober, you will be able to hear Him speak to you through Scripture and in prayer. “For I know well the plans I have in mind for you...plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope.” Jeremiah 29:11 We are sending you a Catholic Bible, Bible Study, Catechism, and a variety of pamphlets along with a list of books that we provide. We do not have pen pals, but we do have a mentor program if you are interested in corresponding with another man who can help guide you with your faith-based questions.

This is the beginning of your new life in Christ. “So, whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St. Dismas Guild, thank you so much for the love, comfort, and guidance that your newsletter has brought me throughout my years here in prison. I've been receiving your shared word since 2014 and during that year you even published my story that I shared with you. That was exciting for me because I felt heard. The Good News that your team shares in every issue have gotten me through some dark times, even my darkest when I felt like all hope is gone. **Your reminders that we are loved by God, even when we feel like we don't deserve it helps me to fall back on His promise that He will not leave us or forsake us and that I never have to struggle alone.**

God bless all of you at St. Dismas Guild and the wonderful work of your ministry. I'll be released from prison in May after serving 8-1/2 years. It is by the grace of God that I am coming through this chapter of my life better than I started it. I'm better equipped to deal with the challenges I'll face because my faith is stronger now. You can remove me from

your mailing list, and thanks again for the love you share. God bless you, A.G.

Dear A.G., Thank you for your letter. *Galatians 5:1* is for you, **“It was for liberty that Christ freed us. So, stand firm and do not take on yourselves the yoke of slavery a second time.”** This is for all being released from prison. **“Put on the armor of God so you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil.”** *Ephesians 6:11* Remember when you get out you are not fighting against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers. The evil one attacks your mind. Resist him. Fill your mind with the Word of God and you will stay free, free indeed. We here at St. Dismas Guild will be praying for you and all those being released into a world that is becoming godless. You are the remnant. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with unflinching love. God bless you.

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FAITH IS FREE

Thank you for your forgiving grace, to a sinner who lost his place. Forgive me Father for I have sinned. Thank you for the new life my friend.

Gift of knowledge you've given me,
Your strength and love have set me free,
You open doors for those who care,
For the love of life, you were there.

Faith is free for those who believe,
In darkness and light, I will see,
When you call me, Lord, your best friend,
I'll believe when you say it, friend.

Poem by L.C

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

FAITH IS THE SURRENDER OF ONESELF, one's desires, one's plans, one's entire life to Jesus in all that He taught and in Who He is. In this, a personal relationship with Jesus begins to grow, an awareness of His presence and love, that He hears and responds to all who approach Him.

In **John 17:3** Jesus teaches *“Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only True God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ.”*

Jesus is present now and always. **John 14:11** *“Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it. If you Love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of Truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”*

Jesus reveals Himself to us always. As a man surrenders his own life, the veil is removed, and Jesus appears more clearly in man's vision.

“We must be willing to let go of the life we planned so as to have the life that is waiting for us.” — Joseph Campbell Then Jesus said to all, **“If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.”** — Jesus Christ **Luke 9:23-24**

The reception of Jesus in the Eucharist into a clean heart with real Faith and a desire to know the Lord brings a clearer vision **John 6:51-58**. Repentance is necessary. Communion

with saints who went before us, who walk with us now in Faith also show Jesus to us, in particular Mary, the Mother of God whose Faith was most profound.

Jesus is here now. He is in relationship with us. Prayer, Eucharist, Obedience, Imitation, Scripture Study, are all vehicles to our having a relationship with Him where He reveals Himself more and more to the one who follows Him as He has told us to do in the Holy Bible.

DEACON KEN'S CORNER

LETTER FROM THE LATE DEACON KEN FINN, dated May 1982. My hope as a chaplain is that the people I serve (inmates, family's victims, and families) can come to see as I have, the healing power of Jesus Christ. Jesus heals wounds in my own life, so will HE heal the wounds of others. **Romans 12:2** tells us that, *we are to pray for a renewed mind and a changed heart.* We are all sinners that can change through the Grace of God. I believe this is the only way that we can really be set FREE!

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR JULY: ...is to The Precious Blood of Jesus. The entire month falls within the liturgical season 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. www.catholicculture.org



A few Feast Days:

July 3rd – St. Thomas the Apostle, patron saint against doubt, architects, and construction workers.

July 6th – St. Maria Goretti, patron saint of rape victims, loss of parents, and young people in general.

July 22nd – St. Mary Magdalene, patron saint of contemplative life, converts, and penitent sinners.

July 31st – St. Ignatius of Loyola, patron saint of Jesuits, retreats, and soldiers.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

“BEING UNWANTED, UNLOVED, UNCARED FOR, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat.” *St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

We know that many inmates feel unwanted, unloved, and forgotten. Our prayer and mission is to show our Love to you, so that you feel Wanted, Loved, and Remembered...

The Word of God has every answer to Life. Tremendous Healing takes place through the study of God's Word when it is applied to our Life. **Please send us your faith-based questions and we will assign you to a Spiritual Mentor to help guide you in your journey.**

Our mentors work, men to men and women to women, and will discuss spiritual matters that come from the Bible, Bible Study workbook, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, teachings of the Catholic Church, or any Faith-Based questions.

6/24/22 SCOTUS overturned Roe V Wade – Join us in offering abundant Prayers of Thanksgiving for a step in the right direction!!! Let's make abortion unthinkable.

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

