

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.

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR AUGUST
is to **The Immaculate Heart of Mary**

August 2022



TESTIMONY

Dear Prison Ministry at Saint Dismas Guild, I am D.G. and 85 years of age. I am approaching the center point (halfway) mark of a 16-year sentence for aggravated assault with a weapon (gun). I am a Model Prisoner in only one respect. My case book prison record is spotless. I hope to be given Parole on my first hearing due to my advanced age and somewhat frail physical condition. Mentally I am usually quite capable and normally very alert.

My day of Salvation was in 2015 when I was reconciled back into the Catholic Church. **Father M. came to the jail to hear my confession, my first in 50 years.** I was given my penance, and then I received the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Afterward I was anointed with Holy Oil and offered exorcism. I have been “at Holy Peace” since that day when I rejoined my church.

I cannot wait to receive the catechism to review the many spiritual facts I learned as a youth at the Catholic schools I attended. God bless them for what they did for me, and I am overjoyed with the reconstitution of my Catholic faith. I am also looking forward to reading and absorbing the church’s explanation of Revelation. It is almost unbelievable the various interpretations by self-proclaimed ministers I have heard over my many years. I look forward to hearing from you and continuing the discussion on our Catholic Faith. God Bless you and keep you safe in this turbulent world. Amen. D.G.

Dear D.G., *“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 1:3* In your letter, you said that after making your confession, you had been anointed. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains the purpose of anointing as “the conferral of a special grace on the Christian experiencing the difficulties inherent in the condition of grave illness or old age. “[Catechism 1527]

When you read and study the CCC, you will learn so much about the faith and practices of the church using scripture and the authentic teachings of the Catholic Church

and not someone else’s interpretation or opinion. It will answer many questions and help deepen your faith.

As you wait for your parole hearing, pray from your heart asking God that if it is His Divine Will, you will be paroled. Then whatever the outcome, be at peace trusting that this is what is best for you. Please write and let us know.

“Even to your old age I will be the same, and even to your graying years I will bear you! I have done it, and I will carry you; and I will bear you and I will deliver you.” Isaiah 46:4

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear Deacon Ken and Marie, my name is R.J. and I am currently finishing the last 3-1/2 months of an eight year sentence. Over the past year I have found the Catholic faith and have relied heavily on it during the darkest times of my life. I have struggled my whole life, going back 30 plus years with homosexuality, and I believe that my recent deliverance from this affliction has resulted because of this Catholic belief. **I’m happy to report that I no longer live nor lead a sinful lifestyle that I once lead.** I want to publicly thank Him and give Him all the glory for taking away all desires for that life. Thank you, God! Glory be to God for this change in me! God really does answer prayers. Your Brother in Christ, R.J.

Dear R.J. Thank you for sharing your healing. God is so awesome and is the ultimate lover and healer. *Genesis 1:27 says, “God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them.”* Thanking God and giving Him the glory for taking away all desire for the homosexual lifestyle is giving you peace of heart and mind. *Philippians 4:6 says, “Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude. Then God’s own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus.”* Always remember Satan is prowling around like a roaring lion looking to see who he can devour. Resist him by praying and thanking God for who He created you to be, a man after His

own heart. God rejoices over His lost sheep who repent and come to Him. He will give you the desire of your heart R.J. God bless you.

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Hello, My Friends, I have been sentenced to 18 years and I know it's not as much as life, but I've realized a lot of things. When my time was given right now, I wish I could have found God sooner. I know my life wouldn't have ended up the way it did. I've lost a lot of things, like desires lusting after the flesh. I have a beautiful wife and kids all a gift from God that I abused and took for granted. I let my fleshly desires become the foundation of my relationship so when times got hard and the storms and temptations came, the love wasn't strong enough to keep my relationship together. Yet it wasn't first in my life at the time, so sex became my relationships strong point, a point that pinned me down in life. It was my lustful desires for my soon-to-be wife instead of love which drove her away and other women nearby. I went crazy with a broken heart and to make things worse in my life I got arrested.

Finding God in a place like this has become a blessing and the best thing I could have ever imagined. God has shown me in the time that I've been down how to love without touch, sight, smell or anything of the flesh. My strong point now is to learn to love with my heart and the Spirit that He has given me. I know that God, if it is His will, will reunite my life back with my wife and kids. God has shown me that to make the foundation to put Him first would form a strong kind of love that will withstand the temptations and trials and storms that the desires of the flesh can give. So, Brethren, please, **I pray for you to make God first in your relationship before the devilish lust of the flesh takes it away.** God bless and search the Bible for your strength that you need to conquer your lustful ways. Praise God and thank Him for the graces that He has given us. Put all your love into Jesus and He will change your life. M.A.

Dear M.A, we are so glad you found the Lord in prison. Learning to Love with your heart and the Spirit, He has given you is an everyday decision. Love is a decision. Love is giving, lust is taking. God is teaching you how to Love now that you have turned your life over to Him. Psalm 32:8 says, "I will instruct you and show you the way you should walk; I will counsel you, keeping my eye on you." He is keeping His eye on you M.A. because He Loves you so much. "Love then, consists in this: not that we have Loved God but that He has Loved us and has sent His Son as an offering for our sins." 1 John 4:10 "We are debtors, then, my brothers—but not to the flesh, so that we should live according to the flesh. If you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the evil deeds of the body, you will live." Romans 8:12 Receive the Love God has for you daily and from the overflow of that Love you will be able to Love others like Jesus Loves you. You are in our prayers.

DEACON KEN'S CORNER

LETTER FROM THE LATE DEACON KEN FINN, dated August 1983. Where is God in your life now? I asked this question to a group of inmates, and this is a sample of what they replied:

- I know He's there, but I don't know how to get in touch with Him.
- I believe in God, but I don't really know Him.
- I am experiencing God much more since I have been in prison. He is all I have left now.
- I believe in God a lot more since I have been reading the Bible and coming to worship services here.

- I know I need to let Him take control of my life, but when I think of the money, chicks, and drugs, it's hard. We all agree that the answer to our needs is letting Jesus come into our hearts and we need to continue to pray that our hearts will be opened, and our brains will be renewed.

PRO-LIFE

"FROM THE FIRST MOMENT OF EXISTENCE, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person—among which is the inviolable right of every innocent human being to life." ~ *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

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

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR AUGUST: ... is to **The Immaculate Heart of Mary.** 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.

www.catholicculture.org



A FEW FEAST DAYS:

August 6th - Transfiguration, The Transfiguration foretells the glory of the Lord as God, and His Ascension into heaven.

August 14th – St. Maximilian Kolbe, patron of journalists, families, **prisoners,** the pro-life movement and the chemically addicted.

August 15th – Assumption of Mary – Feast Day

August 27th – St. Monica, patron saint of abuse victims, wives, alcoholics, and widows.

August 28th – St. Augustine, son of St. Monica and patron saint of brewers, printers, and theologians, he led a former life of loose living before his conversion, which included parties, entertainment, and worldly ambitions.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

WE ARE CELEBRATING OUR 33rd ANNIVERSARY of being Incorporated this August, and we Thank All our benefactors for their continued partnership.

Currently Serving:

- 941 Prison Facilities.
- 4,477 Receiving our monthly **Newsletter.**
- 60 avg. **New Inmates** requesting info. each month.
- 120 avg. **Packages** going out each month.

WE HAVE A FEW BOOKS TO SHARE, someone generously donated, 4 - **13 Powerful Ways to Pray** and 17 - **I heard God Laugh** both from DynamicCatholic.com. These are all that we have so it's **1st come 1st serve.** Please write to us and let us know if you'd like one.

Also, we have **ADDED a New Book to our List of Books/Request Form** - if you would like to order **Rediscover Jesus** by Matthew Kelly let us know. Available in English or Spanish.

*Peace of Christ,
St. Dismas Guild*

