

St. Dismas Guild
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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 materials, free of charge, to inmates. Currently serving over 950 facilities across the U.S. Donations can be made on our website or by mail, see info. at the bottom of this newsletter.

**The Church’s Dedication for September
is to the Seven Sorrows of Mary...**

September 2022



DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St. Dismas Guild, I know your ministry assists inmates with Bibles and Bible Studies. If you would put me on your mailing list for the newsletters and also send me the resources you provide, I would be very thankful and put them to good use. I am a Roman Catholic who grew up near the Abbey of Gethsemane. I got away from my Faith and made tons of bad choices that eventually led me to prison. I decided to turn back to God, and to be honest, sometimes it seems like my life got harder with that decision. I’m still not giving up. I pray to six different Saints daily along with the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. I pray the rosary regularly, but lately have gotten a little off track with it due to my being transferred. It’s been a tough transition.

I’ve written to you once before. I was awaiting a disciplinary hearing for possessing drugs. I was found guilty and sent to this prison. The prison I was in before had a nice chapel with regular services. We had a small Catholic community and had Communion Services weekly, and a Priest celebrated Mass once a month. I miss that. When I was transferred here, I lost most of my property including my Bible, Catechism, Rosary, and everything I had to assist me in my Faith. Here there is no priest, no Mass, not even a Catholic Bible or a copy of anything to keep me current on the readings and the Liturgical calendar. I don’t have anything to offer in exchange for the resources I’ve ask for other than my prayers. God Bless You and your ministry! Thank you kindly, C.G.

Dear C.G., Praise God for your perseverance in prayer even through all your hardships and trials. God has blessed you to see your faults and is teaching you to overcome them and to not fear or despair, but to turn to God knowing He has a better plan for you. As hard as it is to accept that you cannot go to Mass or receive Him in His most precious body and blood in the Eucharist pray to embrace His plan for you.

Your Faith is still on fire just by writing to us, showing your Love for God. God always knows our hearts. We will always have our trials and hardships, but it is going

*through them and trying our best that God sees our efforts and peace and contentment will come as soon as it is in your best interest. See **Romans 5:35**.*

It is the fire of the Holy Spirit that prompts you to write, and it will be through the grace of God and His Spirit that will bring you Hope for a better tomorrow.

*Hope in God can overcome anything. Keep praying and receive Jesus in a **spiritual communion** by uniting yourself with Him to come into your heart. Our Lord will also give you more graces and these graces will keep the flame in your heart burning and alive with the desire to become one with Him. May God bless you on this journey and continue to give you the perseverance to pray to keep your Faith alive! Forever in our hearts and prayers!*

For all who cannot receive Jesus in the Eucharist...

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are Truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I Love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You Sacramentally, come at least Spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

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Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Thank you!!! I wrote to you a short time ago and you promptly replied with a Bible, Bread of Life Bible Study, a Basic Catechism, and “Rediscover Catholicism” by Matthew Kelly. I cannot thank you enough. I have had several questions about our Faith that I have struggled with, and the “Rediscover Catholicism” and the Catechism have helped me find and define my Faith.

I wanted you to know how much these materials have meant to me while incarcerated. My thirst and desire to know my Catholic Faith grows daily. May God bless you all and your wonderful ministry. Peace be with you, K.H.

*Dear K.H., “Faith comes through hearing and what is heard is the Word of Christ.” **Romans 10:17** Your thirst and desire to know your Catholic Faith goes along with Jesus’*

thirst from the cross. His thirst is for you to come to Him so you can receive His Love for you. **“He Loves you with an age-old Love.” Jeremiah 31:3** That Love was poured out to St. Peter, our first Pope and spread down through the ages to a hungry world. This hungry world is starving to Know, Love and Serve God. The books we sent you will fill you with the knowledge of God’s incredible Love for you. Our thirst for Him is fulfilled through the Mass in His Word and Eucharist, His real presence here and now. Jesus told His disciples, **“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes down on you, then you are to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, yes, even to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)** We are the Church and are called to witness by the power of the Holy Spirit of God’s great Love for us. It is so good for us to know the books are quenching your thirst to Know, Love and Serve God. God bless you.

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PRAYER WRITTEN BY INMATE G.H.

St. Michael the Archangel, lend me your sword and shield. As Gods General in war, enlist me as a soldier to fight by your side and with the power given to you, guide me with swift attacks to defeat all evil. Through the Lord’s Body and Blood, I am ready for battle... Let your shield give me Resilience and Vitality while your sword gives me Strength and Agility. Blanket me in Light to suffocate darkness during combat and call on Gabriel to let our victory be known to all. Amen

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

REPLY TO AN INMATE’S QUESTION about Karma and Suffering.

Karma is a concept from the belief system of Hinduism, so the Catholic church does not teach karma. My understanding of Karma is that all of the actions of a man from his past life and this life, determine his future life.

The Holy Bible reveals that God sees what is in the heart of each man. Each man will have to give to God an accounting for everything each man has done Rom 14:12, **“So [then] each of us shall give an account of himself [to God].”** In 2Cor 5:10, St. Paul writes, **“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.**

The difference between these two belief systems could be said that Karma does not have God as the Being who will judge and have mercy. Certainly, whatever a man does affects his psychological, spiritual, social, moral development, in effect making a man who he is and helping determine future thinking and acting,

God’s intervention of forgiveness and mercy can change a man’s destiny. Man has no former life, rather only this life and life eternal with God or without God as a man makes choices in his actions.

This life is a preparation for eternal life.

The purpose of each man’s suffering, particularly those sufferings of Christians, is revealed by St. Paul in Colossians 1:24, **“Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh, I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church.”**

Each man suffers injustice, illness, the effects of his own sins (not Jesus) and the sins of others as Jesus did, death, hate and all the evils. Sometimes punishment is merited; at other times it is not such as in the case of Jesus.

Jesus, Hebrews 5:8f, **“Son though he was,* he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.”**

Thus, the Christian’s suffering for doing good and avoiding evil in obedience to Jesus leads to our perfection and eternal salvation through the person of Jesus.

PRO LIFE

“Abortion is a Terrible Evil, a Destroyer of Peace, Love and Joy.” ~ St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR SEPTEMBER:

is to the **Seven Sorrows of Mary** – “The purpose of the Devotion of the Seven Sorrows is to promote union with the sufferings of Christ through union with the special suffering that Our Lady endured because she was the Mother of God. By uniting ourselves with both the Passion of Christ and His holy Mother, we enter into Jesus’ Heart and honor Him greatly; He is more honored because we have so honored His Mother.”



The **Seven Sorrows** are taken from Scripture events... <http://www.catholictradition.org/Mary/7sorrows.htm>

1. The prophecy of Simeon (*Luke 2:25-35*).
2. The flight into Egypt (*Matthew 2:13-15*).
3. Loss of the Child Jesus for three days (*Luke 2:41-50*).
4. Mary meets Jesus on His way to Calvary (*Luke 23:27-31; John 19:17*).
5. Crucifixion and Death of Jesus (*John 19:25-30*).
6. The body of Jesus being taken from the Cross (*Psalms 130; Luke 23:50-54; John 19:31-37*).
7. The burial of Jesus (*Isaiah 53:8; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42; Mark 15:40-47*).

A Few FEAST DAYS:

Sept. 3rd – St. Gregory the Great - Patron: educators; gout; music; musicians; choirs; singers; stonecutters; teachers; popes; students; scholars; against plague.

Sept. 5th – St. Teresa of Calcutta - the tiny woman recognized throughout the world for her work among the poorest of the poor. She is the patron saint of World Youth Day, and the Missionaries of Charity.

Sept. 8th – Nativity of Mary.

Sept. 15th – The Seven Sorrows of Mary.

Sept. 23rd – St. Padre Pio – Patron saint of pain, suffering and healing, Civil defense volunteers, Adolescents, and Stress relief.

MESSAGE FROM SDG DIRECTOR

HOW TO WRITE A TESTIMONIAL: We Welcome and Greatly Appreciate your Personal Testimonies and Faith Based Questions for our Spiritual Director for our monthly Newsletter, though we cannot publish each one we receive. Write and tell us your story. (Please limit it to 500 words.)

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?

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

