

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

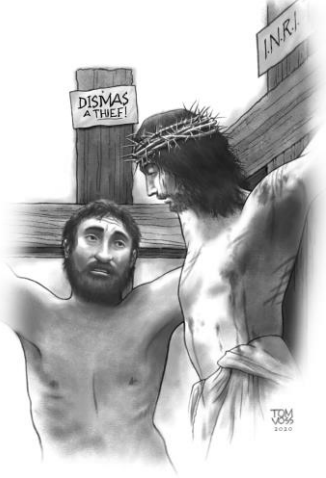
St. Dismas Guild is a nonprofit organization which provides Catholic Bibles and Bible Studies, free of charge, to inmates.

Donations can be made on our website www.StDismasGuild.org or by mail, PO Box 2129, Escondido, CA, 92033.

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR OCTOBER:

is to the **Most Holy Rosary...**

October 2022



TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, I am a fairly recent member of your Blessed Organization. I am 85 years old serving a long sentence for murder and assault. In spring I was led into your organization by a Catholic member here. I was raised in the Catholic faith and attended Catholic parochial schools. In my early “work” years I followed my faith for about 8 to 10 years, but gradually fell-away, although I have always considered myself a Christian believer.

In a second marriage of 22 years with occasional attendance at a United Methodist Church, and in a “Sinful Killing Rage” I destroyed my marriage, family, comfortable existence, and a life of considerable accomplishments. I was immediately incarcerated. I was completely distraught and extremely remorseful for what I had done - the taking of one life and the attempted murder of another person. The Protestant chaplains at the jail were extremely helpful during my “shame and pain” by helping me reach my core beliefs resulting from a painful soul-searching review of my actions (Sins).

With what I believe was Holy Spirit Inspiration, I spoke to one of the local chaplains and stated, “I need to talk with a Catholic Priest.” Consequently, I was visited by a local Catholic priest and the parish Deacon came to help me! The priest came totally prepared to administer the “Sacraments” to me! After an explanation of my “Fallen-away” spiritual situation, I began what was my First Confession in over 50 years. With the Grace of the Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of my terrible sins by My God and Savior, Jesus Christ, I completed the Sacrament of Reconciliation, including my penance sentence. Father then began “the Sacrament” of the Mass which included my reception of the Holy Eucharist. This surprised me greatly but reinforced the forgiveness of my sins and brought the “Body of Christ” into my body and soul! After Mass I was anointed with Holy Oil and provided with the “Blessings of Our Holy Catholic Trinity.” Peace and Relief were the results after my participation and reception of the Holy Sacraments. After some discussion I told Father I felt truly forgiven but I felt some disturbance when I concentrated on my future thoughts about what I

had done and a somewhat reluctance to “forgive” those who had harmed me. I was forgiven but I still felt some resentment (lack of forgiveness”) toward “others”!

I was then offered the services of an (exorcist??). I was told (at that time) only the Catholic Church was authorized to perform those “services.” **Afterward I felt truly relieved and FREE from negative feelings about those who had offended me. My “Demons” had been removed!** After that Spiritual Resurrection I have been a faithful member of our Catholic Unity. Following the procedures and using the Daily Meditations in “The WORD Among Us” I can attend Daily Mass and receive weekly communion. I AM TRULY BLESSED! Thank you, St. Dismas Guild, for the study materials you have sent me and for the monthly newsletter I receive here in prison. God bless You and again Thank You with all my Heart. D.G.

Dear D.G., Your testimony is proof of the infinite Mercy of God and the Power of the Sacraments. “Come now, let us set things right, says the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet they may become white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they may become white as wool.” Isaiah 1:18
The sincere remorse you professed was the first step to Forgiveness. You were very blessed to have had a Catholic Priest come into the prison to hear your confession and absolve your sins. The former chief exorcist in Rome, Fr. Gabriele Amorth used to say that a good confession is greater than an exorcism because it is a sacrament, and an exorcism is considered a sacramental. Praise God that you were freed from the demons of negative thoughts and unforgiveness.

You had a great conversion but remember that conversion is an ongoing process. Be patient with yourself. Continue to pray for the people who hurt you. And pray for the soul of the one whose life was taken and that their family and friends will receive the grace to forgive you as you have been forgiven. “Happy the man whose offense is forgiven, whose sin is remitted.” Psalm 32:1

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St Dismas Guild, happy anniversary, I found your August newsletter on our "info wall" in our dorm. I had never heard of your organization before. I was intrigued. I would like to start receiving your newsletters if you could and also any books you offer. I am always trying to learn about our faith since coming back to it some four years ago.

I've been a lifelong Catholic, until I came to prison. I was in a dark place and walked away from the church. About 22 years ago, I was playing handball on the yard and one Sunday morning when I heard guitars playing and people singing beautiful songs from a nearby gym, I asked the sidewalk guard what it was... he says, "a Bible study." Long story short, I began going to it every Sunday. A non-denominational volunteer group who simply preaches the word. Never looking back, I was hooked! **Which got me finally back to where I belong, taking part in the sacraments.** Thank you for all you do for prisoners - we may not always show our appreciation, but this prisoner tries. I await your response. Your brother in Christ, K.M.

Dear K.M., Welcome to St. Dismas Guild and congratulations on returning to the faith you were raised in. Jesus searched you out and "put you on His shoulders carrying you back to the flock." **Luke 15:4** (See also **John 15:16**) Jesus loves you so much that when He saw the road of destruction you were on, and you heard the guitars playing and people singing beautiful songs praising our Lord, He called you back. As you made the decision to see what it was all about and got into the bible, our Lord started speaking to you through His Word luring you back to your roots. The Catholic Church is rooted in the Word. **John 1:1** It was established when Jesus, the Word, handed the keys to Peter our first Pope. We encourage you to get into the Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study, a simple study that leads you into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Thank you for the compliments K.M., God bless you.

DEACON KEN'S CORNER

LETTER FROM THE LATE DEACON KEN FINN, dated Oct. 1984. "A New Beginning..."

I looked at him as the baptism ceremony began and noticed how he appeared. It was hard to tell that he was a former Hells Angel biker and that he was being tried for kidnapping and attempted murder. His life had been a series of violent events and it hardly seemed that this would be the miracle of his life. This young man had no friends, and no visitors except he invited Jesus Christ into his life and reads HIS words of life every day. I have seen a time of Repentance and a Desire to belong to a family grow in this young man. I felt honored to be a part of this exciting change in his life. He stated to me that no matter what kind of sentence he might receive he will on this Thanksgiving holiday be giving thanks to the Lord for his brothers and sisters in the Lords family.

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR OCTOBER:

"... is to the **Most Holy Rosary**. This is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7th. It was instituted to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful." (Rev. Matthew R. Mauriello, Source: Catholic.net)



A Few FEAST DAYS:

Oct. 2nd - Guardian Angels, Guardian angels are the special angels assigned to humans, helping us throughout our lives from conception until death.

Oct. 3rd - St. Therese of Lisieux, patron of the Missions.

Oct. 4th - St. Francis of Assisi, patron of Animals, Merchants, and Ecology.

Oct. 5th - St. Faustina Kowalska, patron of mercy.

Oct. 7th - Our Lady of the Rosary, patron saint of Guatemala and North Carolina.

Oct. 15th - St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin, Doctor of the Church, patron of headache sufferers and writers.

Oct. 24th - St. Raphael the Archangel, patron of travelers, the blind, and bodily ills.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

WHEN I GIVE SPIRITUAL DIRECTION, I ask the directee 4 questions to stimulate their thinking for the session, the same questions I ask myself during the examen of conscience at Compline (night prayer).

1. What people has God brought into my life?
2. What situations has God allowed me to encounter?
3. How did I let God work through me?
4. How did I get in His way?

It is assented to by an act of faith on the part of the person. It is lived out through cooperation with God and leads to the grace of eternal life.

PRO-LIFE

"Each October the Church in the United States celebrates **Respect Life Month**, and the first Sunday of October is observed as **Respect Life Sunday**. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life." respectlife.org

MESSAGE FROM SDG DIRECTOR

TO GROW IN A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with God, we encourage you to participate in **The Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study** workbook, written by our Founders Deacon Ken and Marie Finn. This workbook follows the Liturgical Calendar of the Church and helps prepare you for the upcoming Sunday Mass readings. **We begin Cycle A at the end of November.** Please wait until late Oct. to order. Thank you...

It was brought to our attention that the Index in our newest printing of Cycle C is missing the years 2021/2022. All the other dates are correct, and you can use the workbook in 3 or 6 years when Cycle C comes back around.

Below are the remaining Cycle C Dates and Pages.

Pg 217 - 27th Ordinary Sunday	- 02 Oct
Pg 223 - 28th Ordinary Sunday	- 09 Oct
Pg 227 - 29th Ordinary Sunday	- 16 Oct
Pg 233 - 30th Ordinary Sunday	- 23 Oct
Pg 237 - 31st Ordinary Sunday	- 30 Oct
Pg 241 - 32nd Ordinary Sunday	- 06 Nov
Pg 247 - 33rd Ordinary Sunday	- 13 Nov
Pg 251 - 34th Sun/Christ the King	- 20 Nov

NOTICE - we apologize, but due to financial reasons we will only be publishing our **Newsletter Bi-Monthly** starting this month. Look for our next Newsletter in December.

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

