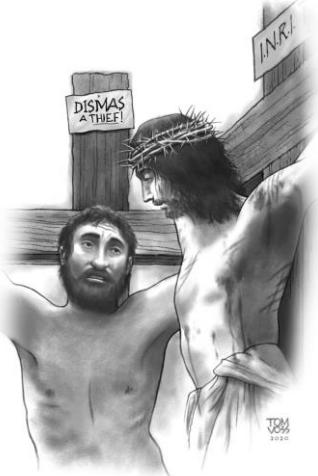


St. Dismas Guild
P.O. Box 2129
Escondido, CA 92033

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Permit No. 2114



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.

Jan/Feb 2023

TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, Hey! I am C.T. and in prison since March 2019 and am a recovered drug addict. I have battled with drugs since I was 13, although growing up I had a very good support system and was not poor, but middle class. I looked up to the wrong role models. My father and mother separated before I was born. My father was on drugs and favored my older brother more than me, so I looked for acceptance in the streets. I joined a gang and went to Juvey at 13. From then on I was in and out. My mother and aunt stood by me through all my mistakes. Because I was brought up in a Christian Church, I was very familiar with the Bible and even though I didn't do the right things, I always sought to have a strong relationship with God. My bad behavior got worse at 18 and I landed in jail. Upon release I just lasted six months and would come back, so at 23 the judge was so feed up with seeing me, he gave me five and a half years in prison just for a probation violation for failing a drug test.

My first two years I just tried to get high and fade through. But then, on my third year here, and going on my fourth, my father passed away. And the woman I loved said she didn't want to wait on me. And I had built relationships with her kids and everything like they were my own. I started taking my rage out wherever I could. Even on the phone to the ones that cared the most. After I pushed everyone away, I began to hate myself because I was the only one left. I was full of hate and envy of whoever I saw happy. I ran my security level up fighting so they moved me to a level five where I have seen people get stabbed. I was surrounded by murderers with multiple life sentences. The food is so bad just the smell would make me vomit. Also, you are locked down a lot, so you can't call your family. So, one day I broke down like Job in the Bible and I cried out. I prayed, "**Father God, please comfort my spirit and heal me from my shortcomings. Get Satan off of me, please.**" I was so worn out from being mad at myself and everyone else, I asked Jesus Christ to guide me to righteousness and allow me to feel joy.

So, the next day I came out into the pod, and I saw a packet with the Bread of Life Bible Study, a Bible and a few papers explaining what St. Dismas is. I asked Jesus Christ to come and save me from myself and all the hate that was eating me alive. **Ever since then I find joy in Faith in the Love that Jesus Christ Died on the Cross for me.** Now all the hate has turned into love. I want to thank you for reading this. I would like to become Catholic and be baptized. Also, if you could, would you please send me a rosary? Thank you. Please send me the newsletter as well. Thank you. C.T.

Dear C.T., Sadly, gangs and drugs often take the place of a father who is absent from the home. But joining a gang and using drugs was also your personal decision and you must take responsibility for that. Through all those years of bad decisions and sin when you turned your back on God, HE was with you. HE never stopped loving you.

It was a blessing when you were sentenced to prison. It may have saved you from an overdose, fentanyl poisoning or even death. Being put on a higher security level showed you what it would be like if you continue on the path of hate and self-destruction, you had a little taste of hell. Yes, the devil is working on you, but you must "...submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7 You have experienced a life without God and a terrible period of despair, hate and rage. Now it is time to turn your life over to the Lord, the one who loves you unconditionally and eternally. HE promises, "HE will never leave you or forsake you" Deuteronomy 31:6

Like the lost sheep of the gospel (read Luke 15:4-5), Jesus has sought you out. When you finally called out to HIM, HE carried you on HIS shoulder rejoicing. HE wants you to be with HIM for all eternity. Each day, pray, read the Bible, and do the Bread of Life Bible Study to learn what God is asking from you.

God is merciful but also just. The choices you make now will determine your future in this life and the life to come. "I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you...may live." Deuteronomy 30:19

DEACON KEN'S CORNER

Letter from the late Deacon Ken Finn dated, January 1983. "Chaplin don't worry about your daughter; the Lord will heal her." I started to say thank you and then this man who was waiting to leave our facility and go to another prison to serve a life term said, "Don't worry about anything and pray about everything." Then he took my little vial of holy oil and began to give me a blessing. He called upon the Lord to give me the gift of patience, courage, and joy.

I share this with you, because this man has been called a "monster" because of his crime and yet, here he was even after being sentenced, giving praise and glory to the Lord.

His eyes glistened, and he had trouble keeping back the tears as we talked about his eight-year-old boy and his four-and six-year-old girls. He was a man getting ready to serve for 20 years to life sentence, and his faith in Jesus Christ was giving him the strength he needed at this time to even minister to me.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

The titles before the names and the letters after the names of those responsible for the bible translation and its authority and authenticity follow a pattern of identification for them and for their credentials.

Most Rev. [reverend] means the man is a bishop.

Rev. means the man is a priest.

Msgr. means monsignor, a title of honor given to clergy.

Bro means the man is a religious brother belonging to a particular religious order, neither a priest or bishop.

The community in which the bishop, priest or brother serves is next. If the bishop or priest was ordained for a diocese, there are no letters indicating this after his name. If the bishop or priest or brother was ordained for a particular religious order in the church, those initials then identify that information.

F.S.C. indicates Christian Brothers.

C.M. indicates Congregation of the Missions, commonly called Vincentians.

C.S.S.R indicates the Redemptorists.

O.F.M. indicates Order of Friars Minor, the Franciscans.

S.J. indicates Society of Jesus, the Jesuits.

O.S.F.S indicates the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales.

O.S.B. indicates Order of St. Benedict, the Benedictines.

Finally, the degree granted to the person is indicated establishing their authority to translate and compile the texts in the NAB.

STL is a Licentiate in Sacred Theology. This is a degree granted by church theology schools. It might be seen as a "master's degree" from a secular university.

STD is a Doctor in Sacred Theology. This degree is granted by church theology schools. It might be seen as a Ph. D from a secular university.

SSL is a licentiate in sacred scripture.

DD is a Doctor of Divinity, a degree granted to a bishop when he is so named a consecrated to his office.

LLD is Doctor of Laws granted by secular universities usually like JD, juris doctor = lawyer.

SSD is Doctor of Sacred scripture granted by theology schools.

PRO-LIFE

"When we die, we will come face to face with God, the Author of Life. Who will give an account to God for the millions and millions of babies who were not allowed a chance to live, to experience loving and being loved?" **St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta** Pro-LifeArticles.org

Reminder - Jan. 23rd – Day of Prayer for the Unborn

St. Dismas Guild: 501(c)(3) non-profit organization ~ PO Box 2129 Escondido CA 92033
Evangelization through Scripture and Ministry to prisons. ~ www.StDismasGuild.org
On Facebook and Twitter @StDismasGuild

SACRED TRADITION

The Churches Dedication for JANUARY:

"...is dedicated to the **Holy Name of Jesus**, which is celebrated on January 3. The first nine days of January fall during the liturgical season known as **Christmas** which is represented by the liturgical color white — the color of light, a symbol of Joy, Purity, and Innocence (absolute or restored). The remaining days of January are the beginning 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. (catholicculture.org)

A Few FEAST DAYS:

Jan. 1st – Mary, Mother of God

Jan. 6th – The Epiphany of the Lord

Jan. 8th – Baptism of the Lord

Jan. 23rd – Day of Prayer for the Unborn

Jan. 25th – Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle - (67 A.D.)
Patron Saint of: Missions; Theologians; Gentile Christians.

The Churches Dedication for FEBRUARY:

"...is dedicated to the **Holy Family**. The special devotion which proposes the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the model of virtue of all Christian households began in the 17th century. ... The feast was welcomed by succeeding Pontiffs as an efficacious means for bringing home to the Christian people the example of the Holy Family at Nazareth, and by the restoration of the true spirit of family life, stemming, in some measure, the evils of present-day society. ~ catholicculture.org



A Few FEAST DAYS:

Feb. 2nd – Presentation of the Lord

Feb. 11th – Our Lady of Lourdes

Feb. 14th – St. Valentine

Feb. 22^{ndt} – Ash Wednesday – Lent begins

MESSAGE FROM SDG DIRECTOR

A New Year's Blessing; "Shine YOUR Light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for YOUR Glory and Purposes. Set YOUR way before us. May all YOUR plans succeed. We may reflect YOUR Peace and Hope to a world that so desperately needs YOUR Presence and Healing. To YOU be Glory and Honor, in this New Year, and forever. Amen."

1st come 1st serve – someone donated 22 Books **"Rome Sweet Home"** by Scott Hahn, write to us and request it if you are interested.

Happy New Year, St. Dismas Guild team

