

St. Dismas Guild
P.O. Box 2129
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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 Church’s Dedication for September
is to the **Seven Sorrows of Mary...**

September 2023



TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, my name is J.J., and I was born in Haiti. I grew up in a Catholic-rooted family and my sister and I attended Catholic school. My mother and father kept us in church. At the age of seven years old both my parents passed away and I moved in with my aunt in Florida. My aunt did her best to raise us in the church but in my teenage years I became rebellious. I moved in with my sister when I was 18 years old and got a good job. Around that time, I fell in with the wrong crowd and started getting into trouble. At 22 I had my first child and began to take life more seriously. I did the best I could to provide for my family but even though I believed in Christ I was lukewarm doing what I wanted and justifying it because of my good fortune.

Fast forward, I caught my first federal charge at age 34. This was the situation that forced me to reevaluate my life and make some changes. **I have been walking seriously with God the last two years.** Currently I am in special housing awaiting transfer to a low facility. This is one of the hardest challenges I am dealing with because I have been living right and doing God’s will. So being locked down 23 hours a day and not committing any offense to deserve it has been difficult to understand. **But the more I pray and meditate on His Word, the better I’ve been able to deal with and understand how He is using this situation to make me a better disciple.** I have been locked down because of a mistake and it was discovered, and I am in solitary until I am transferred. I hope my testimony will help someone. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Acknowledge Him in all your ways. He will direct your path.”

*Dear J.J., you have good roots being born in a Catholic-rooted family. It must have been very hard for you and your sister to lose your parents at age 7. Satan’s attack on you began in your teen years when you decided to rebel. **John 10:10 says, “The thief comes to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life, and have it more abundantly.” Satan comes in and edges you on when***

*you want to live your way and not God’s way. God’s way is what scripture says and staying under the headship of the Church. You made the effort to provide for your family, but you were not rooted in the Word of God, so you became lukewarm. Scripture says what happens to one who is lukewarm. **“But because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I will spew you out of my mouth.” Revelation 3:16.** It is good you see that God is using your situation to make you a better disciple. God sees your heart we look at appearance. He loves you very much and those He loves He disciplines. God bless you. You are in our prayers.*

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Hello. It’s a great day. I feel good today as I’m taking 24 items to the Catholic Worship Service this afternoon. I’ve put them in a pillowcase, then set it below the Eucharist. At the end of Mass Our Leader will pass it out to the indigent. It is 10 percent of the incoming deposit from my family. The real challenge is making it through the month without asking for more money. It will only create spiritual balance. The indigent don’t even have the option. My brother and my mom have been dependable and support me every day I’ve been in prison. And they don’t even go to church. On top of that, I barely spoke to them before I got locked up. Please join me in prayer for them. And also, my grandparents.

Today I’m a servant, a part of the servanthood of the faithful. **Even today’s Mass speaks of me. I really love daily Mass. I’m doing the work of Jesus.** I had to write to you all. On Thursday night when I got your newsletter, I was feeling elated to hear from my Christian family. So, I went into deep prayer seeing your concerns for donations. I would like to assure you that there is a Pot of Gold at the end of every rainbow (Covenant). Just stay in faith and more than you can imagine will come from Angels. God is faithful. **Throughout the week I do the Bible Study. It opens my mind to Scripture. I do it every week.** We need you to keep the Prison Ministry. I’ll write to Papa Pope Francis if I have to. He’ll send you a check.

Prison life is stressful, always a break in concentration. Thanks for your support. I’ve been reading the Revelation

book you sent me. “As we celebrate the memorial of His death and resurrection, we offer you Lord the Bread of Life and Chalice of Salvation giving thanks that you have helped us, worthy to be in your presence and minister to you. Humbly we pray that partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ...” that’s where I’m at. But this makes me die to self-daily. I feel like this is my job now as worker in the Servanthood for Christ. D.C.

It is so good D.C. that you have the support of your mom and brother. It must have been the Word of God that gave you the desire to give to the poor. “It is God who, in His good will toward you, begets in you any measure of desire or achievement.” Philippians 2:13

St. Mother Teresa had the faith to do her work with the poor and put total trust in God to provide the means to do so. It sounds like your faith has grown tremendously that you trust God to get you through the month. He always comes through. The more you give the more you receive. “Faith then comes through hearing and what is heard is the Word of Christ.” Romans 10:17

Continue doing the bible study with the understanding that the Holy Spirit is your Teacher. Ask Him to teach you how to live. The greatest pot of gold we can receive is to see you transformed by the power of God’s Word and become God’s disciple. May you experience His loving touch on you and be healed.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

When Elijah was at Mt. Horeb...

“God was not in the wind.

God was not in the earthquake.

God was not in the fire.

God was in the tiny whispering voice.” 1 Kings 19:11-13

God is **not** in the teachings of radical inclusion.

God is **not** in climate change.

God is **not** in critical race theory.

God is **not** in disorganized immigration for all.

God is **not** in women’s ordination.

God is **not** in synodal ideologies.

God is **not** in sex outside of Holy Matrimony.

God **IS** in the Soul of the Baptized. “In Him we live, move, and have our being.” Acts 17

God **IS** in the Eucharist.

God **IS** in Worship.

God **IS** in the Service of the disadvantaged.

God wants each Christian to have the Joy of unity with Jesus in Word, Sacrament, and Charity.

PRO LIFE

“Every day LifeNews gets emails, messages and comments on social media asking us to respond to the lies the abortion industry tells. The left and the media are telling so many lies it’s getting more and more challenging to get the truth out.

“They say abortion bans stop women from getting medical treatment for miscarriage, is this true? No.

“They say abortion bans prevent women from getting medical care for ectopic pregnancy, is this true? No.

“I heard doctors denied treatment for pregnant women in life-threatening situations, is this true? No.

“I heard women are dying because of abortion bans, is this true? No.

“LifeNews educates and informs millions of people every single week and we desperately need your help to combat these lies...” www.lifenews.com/donate

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 – Pope St. Gregory the Great - Patron: educators; gout; music; musicians; choirs; singers; stonecutters; teachers; popes; students; 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 – The Birth of the Blessed Virgin 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.

Sept. 29th – Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, archangels – Michael (*Who is like God?*) was the archangel who fought against Satan and all his evil angels, defending all the friends of God. He is the protector of all humanity from the snares of the devil. Gabriel (*Strength of God*) announced to Zachariah the forthcoming birth of John the Baptist, and to Mary, the birth of Jesus. His greeting to the Virgin, "Hail, full of grace," is one of the most familiar and frequent prayers of the Christian people. Raphael (*Medicine of God*) is the archangel who took care of Tobias on his journey.

MESSAGE FROM SDG DIRECTOR

NEW BOOKS FROM PRESENTATION MINISTRIES:

We’ve recently partnered with another Catholic ministry called Presentation Ministries, and they are offering a few new books for you. You may now request either of these books: *The Book on Forgiveness* and *Speak the Truth in Love*, these are small softcover booklets.

They will also be sending us their *One Bread One Body* daily scripture reflections booklet each month. We will be adding one to each box going out.

God bless this ministry for their partnership with us and their care for the incarcerated.

*May the Lord bless and keep you,
St. Dismas Guild*

