

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

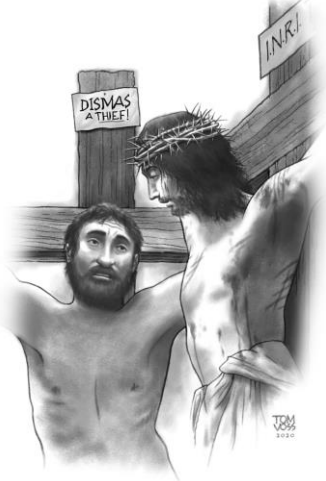
St. Dismas Guild is a nonprofit organization which provides Catholic Bibles and Bible Study workbooks, etc., free of charge, to inmates.

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

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR NOVEMBER:

is to the **Souls in Purgatory...**

November 2023



TESTIMONY

To all those who work at St. Dismas Guild, thank you for the service you provide. It is heartening to know there are some out in the world who have not forgotten the prisoners, and, most importantly, not consigned us as simply “getting what we deserve.”

As much as I try, as much as I call on Our Lord Jesus, **I still have not yet been able to let go of the guilt, anger with myself, and disappointment at what I have put my family and friends through.** I know intellectually it's a process, and **I have faith that Jesus will pull me through.** But every day I pray, “I believe, help my unbelief.”

I use and enjoy the (Bread of Life Catholic) Bible Study to get ready for the Sunday service. (We happen to have it on Tuesdays, but thank God, we get the Eucharist weekly!) I have made copies for the multitude of Hispanic Catholics to mail in for a Catholic Bible and Study in Spanish. Thank you for that service.

I have enclosed a small donation of stamps to help you out. I will continue to periodically send a bank of stamps in the hope that it helps in some way. Thank you again for all you do. Yours in Christ. W.D.

Dear W.D., Thank you so much for your encouragement and the stamps. You have a giving heart. “Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be given to you. For the measure you measure with will be measured back to you (Luke 6:38). It is so hard for us humanly to forgive ourselves when we see our loved ones or others suffering because of what we have done to them. It says in Psalm 32:5, “Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not. I said, ‘I confess my faults to the Lord,’ and you took away the guilt of my sin.” Things that are impossible for men are possible for God. He loves you and has forgiven you. He left you His Spirit to help you, the Holy Spirit. We will pray for you and ask that you believe what He has done for you. He has set you free. God bless you.

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St. Dismas Guild, I hope when this letter reaches you it finds you in the best of health and spirits.

I am writing because I want to say thank you for sending me the Bible, Basic Catechism, and the Break of Life Bible Study and pamphlets. They have been a great help to me as I am in segregation and all my religious materials were taken from me. I've been in segregation for nine months and was transferred to segregation in another maximum-security facility to complete the remainder of my segregation time making it harder to retrieve the rest of my belongings, so the items you sent me came at moment of great need.

Being as how I still have five months left of segregation and have very little communication with the outside world, I struggle on a day-to-day basis with losing myself as I see so many others do back here. Every day when I feel as though the darkness is closing in, **I ask God to be my light.** I am not allowed to make phone calls or send Emails, and my mail is being held and monitored, so I talk to God. **I was finally given my Rosary back and daily recitation is one of the few comforts I have that helps me through the days.** After reading Rediscovering Catholicism by Matthew Kelly it was a habit that I realized I needed more than I wanted to admit. It also forced me to acknowledge all the bad habits that I have that have led me back to prison and also a 14-month stay in segregation.

In all the facilities I've been in, we have been the minority and as Catholics we are not always treated too kindly. But I take satisfaction in knowing that I hold God and the Holy Roman Catholic Church near to my heart in a place that is nearly Godless. I wanted to express how much it means to me and others like me in my similar situation what you are doing and how much it helps. Thank you so much. May the Lord be with you and God bless you all. Sincerely M.R.

Dear MR, meditating on the mysteries of the rosary with Our Blessed Mother will help you to keep your focus on

Jesus. **Colossians 3:2** says, **“Be intent on things above rather than on things of earth.”** As you reflect on each of the mysteries and bring yourself into the picture walking with Jesus you will become His friend. **Take every thought captive in obedience to Christ.** You are not alone. His Spirit will remind you of all He said and did. **Do not be afraid.**

Remember the scripture at the top of every lesson of the Bread of Life Bible Study where Jesus tells us in **John 14:26**, **“The Paraclete, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will instruct you in everything, and remind you of all that I have told you.”** Look at segregation as a seminary, a place of learning about Jesus. God bless you and keep you. God let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. God look upon you kindly and give you peace.

DEACON KEN’S CORNER

He looked at me with tremendous brown eyes and said, “Chaplain, my little girl won’t remember me when I get out.” His whole body started to shake, and we just sat there in his cell and let Jesus hold him. He is 26 and has a 6-year-old daughter who thinks he is in the army. He is getting ready to serve a 25-year-to-life sentence in state prison.

He has found Jesus in his life through daily uninterrupted personal prayer time. He reads God’s word in scripture and sees how he is being drawn to God. He submits his life, his wife’s, and child’s life to the Lord now. He said, “I am stronger now than I have ever been in my life.” I ask that you pray for this young vulnerable family.

I pray that the Lord will fill his mind with love and hope. I pray that he will open up and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus wants this man to be at peace and also to have his whole family to be at peace. In Jesus’ name, I ask for your prayers.

“God is just as thorough in His mercy – As He is severe in His judgement. God is complete.”

Pray for all families that are separated and longing for their loved ones. So many are in this same situation. The breakup in the family is so prevalent today. COVID isolated people one from the other. *Secrets of a Happy Family* tells of the biblical role of each member of the family. **1 Corinthians 11:3** says, **“But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and a husband the head of his wife, and God the head of Christ.”**

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

“Make a mess...” “Live in confusion...” “Life is unmoored...” “The past is erased...”

These are the tools of the new world order architects in the church, governments, finance, education, “science”, and on. They deconstruct and come together to recreate and to rebuild their world at the expense of those of us without the same degree of power.

The self-appointed architects use destroyers like Hamas, BLM rioters, antifa, LGBTQ advocates, climate fools, race hustlers, political workers, deep state, deep church who mistakenly feel they hold value as faithful builders in the eyes of the architects whom they serve, when actually these servants are useful idiots, to be discarded by those whom they choose to serve as their masters, when their small part in deconstruction is finished..

There is but one Architect Who tears down and Who builds up: The Holy and Immortal Trinity.

Archbishop Charles Chaput teaches, **“the Church belongs to Jesus Christ; she is His Church first,” and that the Faithful are children of the Church, “not her architects...”**

REMEMBER His Plan, His Word in the Bible, His Son Jesus sent for our salvation.

REMEMBERING means reading the Bible, engaging the Sacraments, believing what you read, teaching what you believe, and practicing what you teach, respecting leaders, praying for them, but not following like sheep when leaders preach themselves instead of preaching what God has taught.

REMEMBER the Architect, and build His church, His world, and your soul for eternal life.

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR NOVEMBER:

“...is dedicated to the **Holy Souls in Purgatory**. The Church commemorates all her faithful children who have departed from this life but have not yet attained the joys of heaven. St. Paul warns us that we must not be ignorant concerning the dead, nor sorrowful, “even as others who have no hope ... For the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven ... and the dead who are in Christ shall rise. The Church has always taught us to pray for those who have gone into eternity.” (catholicculture.org)



A Few FEAST DAYS:

Nov. 1st - All Saints - Today the Church celebrates all the saints: canonized or beatified, and the multitude of those who are in Heaven enjoying the beatific vision that are only known to God.

Nov. 2nd - All Souls, also known as the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed and the Day of the Dead, is a day of prayer and remembrance for the souls of those who have died.

Nov. 13th - St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Patron: hospital administrators; immigrants; orphans.

Nov. 30th - St. Andrew, Patron: fishermen; singers; sore throats; unmarried women; women who wish to become mothers.

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 B the 1st Sunday of Advent, December 3rd. this year.**

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FIRST COME FIRST SERVE - We have 70 little booklets on **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit.**

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KNOW, LOVE, and SERVE God better each day, with all my Heart, Mind and Strength... Matthew 22:37, Luke 10:27. **LOVE** others as God has loved me... John 15:12, 1 John 4:11 **FOCUS** on God and His Kingdom, His Word, and Sacraments... Colossians 3:1, Psalm 46:10, Jeremiah 24:7 **GROW** in a DEEPER personal relationship with God... James 4:8, Jeremiah 29:13, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Revelation 3:20. **SEEK** God’s Will 1st in all my Sufferings... 1 Peter 5:2-4, Romans 12:2. **TRUST** that God CARES about every issue in my life... Psalm 37:23, 1 Peter 5:7 **REMEMBER** that; “God is Working EVERYTHING Out FOR GOOD for those who Love HIM.” Romans 8:28

May the Lord bless and keep you.

