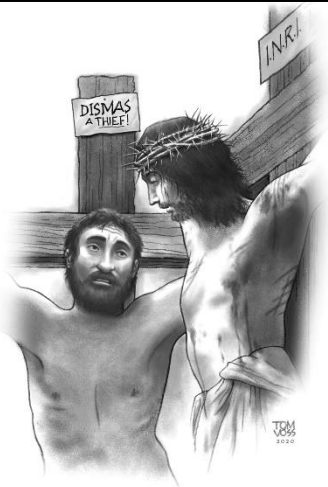


St. Dismas Guild  
P.O. Box 2129  
Escondido, CA 92033

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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](http://www.StDismasGuild.org) or by mail, PO Box 2129, Escondido, CA, 92033.

**THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR JANUARY:**  
is to the **Most Holy Name of Jesus...**

**January 2024**

## TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, Thank you so much for the Bible, pamphlets, the Basic Catechism, and this cycle’s Bread of Life Bible Study. I also thank you for the new order form, could you please send me another one? I’ve filled it out again to receive the Jesus, Remember Me, Prayer Book, and One Bread, One Body for Advent/Christmas (if that’s what you have), and forgot to make a blank copy to give to my chapel with your updated book list. I also noted the book I requested was no longer in stock (hence the request for the prayer book). I also ask how often I can submit to you requests for new books. I have no issue waiting until it’s this time next year to receive the next liturgical year’s Bible Study and ensure you have enough resources to help all those you minister to. **I would love to be part of your spiritual mentoring program to keep growing my faith and stay grounded in it and do my time.**

Here is my personal testimony: I was born and raised in a Catholic family. My mom ran a worship music group that enhanced the celebration of Mass on Sunday using guitar, piano, and voices to praise God compared to a more traditional choir. I went to my parish’s Catholic school from preschool and graduated it in eighth grade. I was strong in my faith, loving religion class and being in church. My faith helped me starting in fifth grade when I started being bullied through seventh grade. It was the only thing I had at times to cling to. Upon graduation I went to a Jesuit high school that was all male, I loved it, playing football and learning a more dynamic depth of my faith that the Jesuits provided and a foundation of seeing God in all things, to be a Man for others, and to live my life in the spirit of the Beatitudes and live my life in the Jesuit motto, Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam, (To the greater glory of God.)

I went to the US Naval Academy after doing a year at a Jesuit College. Here and in the Navy, I drifted from my faith, yet Christ still blessed me by getting me into the academy, having two sons at an earlier time than my now estranged wife and I expected, ups and downs in my career, regardless of where I was, Christ blessed me.

Since I’ve been arrested and imprisoned, I’ve, to quote Pope Francis, “gone back to Galilee,” in my faith. **God has kept me safe from harm, put me in the spots I need to be safe, around God-fearing inmates, and people to help me grow more in my faith.** I was blessed with the minimum sentence for my crime, family to pay for my attorney, and I still can talk to my sons. **I know that through prayers and supplications, God blessed me to come closer to Him through this, to be an ascetic prayer warrior for those who need prayers, and to see Him more clearly, love Him more dearly, and follow Him more nearly, day by day.**

While I’m hard-pressed for funds due to imprisonment, I have told my family to go to your website and donate on my behalf to help me and others in your ministry. I will continue to pray that God will provide you the means to spiritually visit me in prison as Christ commanded. Thank you and **“May the Lord bless you and keep you! May the Lord let His face shine upon you and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!” Numbers 6:24-26.** Yours in Christ, C.H.

*Dear C.H., Thank you for reaching out to us at St. Dismas Guild, and for sending us your testimony. It is beautiful to see the Lord’s grace and mercy at work in your life, and we pray that He will continue to bless, guard, guide, and keep you as you journey ever nearer to Him in your imprisonment and far beyond.*

*You may request items as often as you need them. We do our best to keep up with requests. That being said, if you continue to request the same items over and over, we will question what is happening to them. If you are sharing, praise God! But we would ask that those you are sharing your items with write to us directly, for record-keeping purposes. If an item is lost or damaged beyond use and you are in need of a new one, please explain that to us in a letter.*

*In regards to our Spiritual Mentorship program, we invite you to write to us with any questions you may have about the*

faith, Scripture, prayer, especially Bible Study questions, etc. and we will share them with Fr. Richard. He carefully and lovingly responds to each question, and we will mail his response to you!

Thank you again for reaching out, and God Bless you always...

DEACON KEN'S CORNER

**Letter from the late Deacon Ken Finn dated, Jan. 1984, from Mission San Luis Rey Parish.**

He saw me come into the cell block and started to turn away when I called to him. I asked how he was doing with his acceptance of the Lord. He said to me, "I have been trying to pray and keep in touch with God, but it is very hard in here." He told me that he wakes up in the morning feeling abandoned and then he hears the mail call, and he doesn't receive any mail. This enforces his feelings of rejection. He said, "I pray that my family will write or maybe some friends, and then I get depressed and angry at everyone including God."

I told him that this time in prison can be the "miracle of his life." He looked at me, smiled and said, "Would you like to have my miracle?" I told him that only when he puts his trust completely in Jesus can anything begin to happen. Jesus tells us, *"You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, and with all your mind."* (Matt. 23:37)

I shared with him that really giving Jesus permission to take control of his life will relieve him of the incredible pressures of fear, hate and depression. **He asked me to pray with him and then we had several "brothers" join us and we all prayed for God's powerful healing on this very troubled man.**

I ask that you keep all of these men in your prayers. I write to tell you that the power of the Lord is very much reflected in your prayers. I have seen many people completely turn their lives around in jail and I am convinced it is God working through your prayers.

SACRED TRADITION

**The Churches Dedication For JANUARY:** "...is to the **Most Holy Name of Jesus**, which is celebrated on January 3. The first eight days of January fall during the

Σ ALPHA & OMEGA  
A Christ teacher  
THE WORD MASTER  
the almighty SON  
LORD OF Saviors OF  
OF LORDS mediator  
HEALER ADVOCATE rock  
I messiah Jesus comfortor  
ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

liturgical season known as **Christmas** which is represented by the liturgical color white — the color 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. 1<sup>st</sup> – Mary, Mother of God**  
**Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> – The Epiphany of the Lord**  
**Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> – Baptism of the Lord**  
**Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Day of Prayer for the Unborn**  
**Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> – Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle** - (65 A.D.) Patron Saint of: Missions; Theologians; Gentile Christians.  
**Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> – Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops** - (97 A.D. & 96 A.D.) Timothy was baptized and later ordained to the priesthood by St. Paul. Titus a convert from paganism, was a fellow laborer of St. Paul on many apostolic missions.

**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](http://www.StDismasGuild.org)  
On Facebook and Twitter @StDismasGuild

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

**Choosing Christ, the Good Master:** In some of His teachings Jesus uses a technique called hyperbole, an example to the extreme. Love, acceptance and conformity versus hate, rejection, and nonconformity, are necessary when it comes to sin. If a man wants to live with God forever in heaven, he must reject former ways of sin which was his former master and accept the truth of Jesus to be the new master. There is no having it both ways. Now, since we humans are weak, we must acknowledge that we still look back to the pleasures that sin offered, and at the same time say NO MORE. Jesus is now my Lord, my Master, my King, and I will live by His grace. **Romans 6:16-17** *Do you not know that if you present yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, although you were once a slave of sin, you have become obedient from the heart to the pattern of teaching to which you were entrusted.* Read the whole chapter for Paul's clear teaching.

PRO-LIFE

**"Human rights are not a privilege** conferred by government. They are every human being's entitlement by virtue of his humanity. The right to life does not depend, and must not be contingent, on the pleasure of anyone else, not even a parent or sovereign... you must weep that your own government, at present, seems blind to this truth." *St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta* Pro-LifeArticles.org

St. Dismas Guild **Rosary for Life** meets every Friday from 10:30 - 11:30 am in front of Planned Parenthood in Escondido, CA

MESSAGE FROM SDG DIRECTOR

**Hope for a New Year:** *"The LORD's acts of mercy are not exhausted; His compassion is not spent; They are renewed each morning—great is your faithfulness!" Lamentations 3:22-23* At the onset of a new year, I am reminded of these words from the Old Testament, telling of God's goodness to His creation. The sun sets on 2023, the sun rises on 2024, and Our God is near to us, Our God is gracious to us, Our God comes with the morning light to bring us His hope and His peace. I pray His Love will strengthen us throughout this year, and all the years of our lives.

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**How to write a Testimonial:** We welcome personal Testimonies and questions for our Spiritual Director for the Newsletter, though we cannot publish each one we receive. Please write and tell us your story. **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? Please limit your testimony to 500 words.

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**To grow in a personal relationship with God:** we encourage you to request the **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 began Cycle B on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. this year.** Request yours today...

**New Years Blessing** from all of us here at St. Dismas Guild

