

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.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust in You.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I believe in Your love for me.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Your kingdom come.

June 2024



TESTIMONY

St. Dismas Guild:

I received a copy of your newsletter from another inmate. It was very uplifting to read, and I would love to be placed on your mailing list. I have been wrongfully convicted of crimes I did not commit and incarcerated since 2016. I was born and raised in a strong Catholic family and have received my sacraments. I believe God has chosen this path for me. I was married to my ex-wife for twenty plus years. She was not a good Christian woman, and I lusted after her. I lost my way and the week before my mom died in my arms she made me promise I would divorce my wife and come back to the Church. I was working on an exit strategy eleven months later when I was arrested.

While I have been incarcerated, I have been angry at the system and turned to the Buddhist religion. All of these years God has given me signs telling me to come back to my Faith. My daughter and grandchildren go to church and are good Christians. I started praying again over a year ago and watching Heart of the Nation Mass every Sunday. My life has become so much better with my return to God. I would be so grateful if you could please send me a Catholic Bible and Bible study materials. I would like to remain on your mailing list and receive your newsletter and all study materials to help build me back to being a strong Catholic. I look forward to hearing back from you. Sincerely, T.C.

T.C. received The Bread of Life Bible Study, a Bible, and other assorted pamphlets

Dear T.C., Thank you for writing to us and sharing your story. We praise the Lord that He has drawn you to Himself and brought you back into a life of prayer! “The LORD’s acts of mercy are not exhausted, his compassion is not spent; They are renewed each morning—great is your faithfulness! The LORD is my portion, I tell myself, therefore I will hope in him” (Lamentations 3:22-24.) Continue to hope in Him, and He will continue to strengthen you and guide you. Jesus Christ is the Divine Healer, the Divine Physician; consider asking Him to heal the places in

your heart and in your life that are still in need of His loving, healing touch. He is gentle and tender in His care for us, and He knows exactly what we need. His delight is to provide for His children and to make us whole and Holy. Please continue to delve deeper into His word in Sacred Scripture, and if you need any more resources to assist you on your journey, please do not hesitate to reach out to us!

Peace of Christ, St. Dismas Guild

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St. Dismas Guild, I pray this letter finds you and your loved ones safe, well, and prospering in the Lord. I’m writing in regards to receiving some of your materials. The two books I’d like to receive are: 1) The Book on Forgiveness; and 2) Overcoming Compulsive Behavior. Both of these would help me when I get out on parole. I fully understand if you’re only able to send one of them.

I’d like to ask for your prayers that I will continue my walk with God and attend Mass on a regular basis. Also that I continue to read my Bible daily, pray my Rosary daily, read the daily devotionals, and continue to do the Bread of Life Studies. I pray at least one chapter in the Old Testament, Deuterocanonical, and New Testament – I even made up a schedule so I can read every chapter in a one-year period. I pray my Rosary and then read my Bible first thing in the morning, and I pray my Rosary again before going to bed. I attend the communion service each week and I attend Mass every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. I do know where I made some of my mistakes last time I got out: 1) I didn’t attend Mass; 2) I prayed my Rosary and read my Bible for a while and then I quit doing it...

I’ll let you go for now. May God continue to bless you and your ministry. R.S.

R.S. received both the Book on Forgiveness and Overcoming Compulsive Behavior

Dear R.S., You have a very good routine of prayer and reading God’s Word. What is very important is that you are building your relationship with Jesus, Our Father and the Holy Spirit. Get to know everything about Jesus, how He spoke to people, how He acted around people, what

He told them to do. Your attitude must be that of Christ, “He did not deem equality with His Father but humbled Himself taking on the form of a slave” (Philippians 2:5-11). Jesus thirsts for your love and you are satiating His thirst for you by continuing your prayers. Satan is prowling around like a roaring lion to see who He can devour. Resist him when you get out. 1 Peter 5:8-9 - “God has not given you a spirit of fear or timidity but of power and love and a sound mind.” When you get out, make Jesus your best friend. He will never disappoint you. He always does what He says. He is saying to you “Amen, amen, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. A slave does not remain in a household forever, but a son always remains. So if a son frees you, then you will truly be free” (John 8:34-36). We will be praying for you and all the inmates and those on parole.

God Bless You, St. Dismas Guild

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER: Jesus tells us in the Bible to ask for whatever it is that we desire. **Matthew 7:7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.** He will purify the requests in order that He grant us what is best for us. Be persistent. **No one is beyond His love and mercy. Lamentations 3:22-23 – “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”**

DEACON KEN’S CORNER

Letter from the late Deacon Ken Finn, dated August 1984

This word justice could also be called love-justice. We convict and sentence men and women to prison terms, and we call this justice. We think that because a man or woman is locked up and put away, justice has been served. **We might ask ourselves, what happens when this man or woman gets out of prison? We need to ask ourselves what happens to a man or woman while they are locked up.**

We need to remember that by His incarnation Jesus has united Himself in some fashion with every human being. We also need to remember that if Jesus has united Himself in some fashion with every human, and if grace works in the hearts of all men and women of goodwill, then the limits of the people of God are never ending.

I have seen in our times that a special obligation binds us to make ourselves the neighbor of every person and of actively helping him when he comes across our path. Since the present social order does not and cannot provide what it must for the people of the world, Christians must work to change and improve it. I am talking about loving the unlovely, the uncaring, the untouchables, the unwashed, the outcasts, the social lepers, the pervert, as well as the loveable, caring, beautiful people of God.

We need only to look at Scripture (**John 13:35**) **“By this will all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”** Our Heavenly Father wills that in all men we recognize Christ our brother and love Him effectively in word and deed. The reason for ministry is to show that every person is our neighbor; every person is to be loved and served in obedience to Christ’s command, **“Love one another as I have loved you.”**

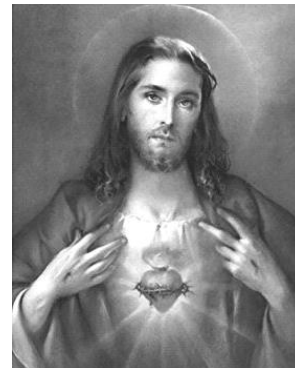
SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR JUNE: is to The **Sacred Heart of Jesus.** The Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the Friday

following the second Sunday after Pentecost. In addition to the liturgical celebration, many devotional exercises are connected with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Of all devotions, devotion to the Sacred Heart was, and remains, one of the most widespread and popular in the Church.

A Few Feast Days

- **June 2nd** The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.
- **June 7th** The Sacred Heart of Jesus
- **June 8th** The Immaculate Heart of Mary
- **June 24th** The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
- **June 29th** Sts. Peter and Paul



PRO-LIFE

Read about Deacon Ken and Marie’s special encounter with Mother Teresa, dated Sept. 1982

My wife, Marie, and I went to the Natural Family Planning convention in Acapulco, Mexico last month. The featured speaker was Mother Teresa of India, and her message was very simple and direct. She told about 6,000 delegates at the convention from over 70 countries to pray together as families, to teach our children to have virgin hearts and to stop abortions.

She said that **“America is the poorest of the poor because it has allowed one and a half million babies a year to be aborted. For a country as rich, educated, and powerful as us to allow such a terrible thing must mean that we Americans are in deep spiritual poverty.”**

We had the privilege of meeting Mother Teresa and praying with her in an apartment near the convention. **She told us that husbands need to pray with their wives, parents need to pray with their children, and families need to pray together daily.** Mother Teresa then gave us a very special marriage blessing and invited us to kneel and join her in prayer. She closed by telling Marie and I to go home and tell the people to return to prayer.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

You may have noticed a particular passage from Lamentations referenced multiple times in this June edition of our newsletter. As we reach the midway point of the year, this beautiful promise of the Father’s faithfulness, of His evergreen mercy, is on my heart in a renewed way. Perhaps it is in her special wisdom that the Church presents us with the opportunity to give special devotion to Christ’s Sacred Heart – the overflowing fount of love and mercy – precisely in the middle of the year, when we may be growing tired and in need of encouragement. Jesus’ Sacred Heart is an oasis in the desert for weary travelers; it is a beacon of hope from the shores of Heaven for those of us still being tossed about by the rolling waves of life. I invite you to cling to the unmovable, unchanging heart of our Sweet Jesus in this special month of June, and always – I know I will be.

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

