

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

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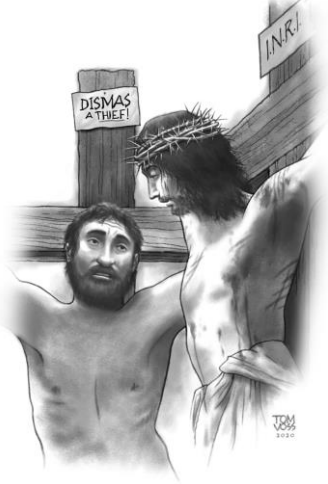
St. Dismas Guild ~ Prison Ministry

“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.

September 2024



TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, The Chaplain at our facility, Pekin FCI, gave me a copy of your newsletter, and I am writing to see if I could be put on your mailing list to receive the newsletter myself.

I was born and raised Catholic, fell away from the Church for almost forty years, and now am finding my way back to my Faith. My incarceration and very long sentence have brought me to realize how much in disrepair my life has been, **and how much I need God's forgiveness as well as guidance of the Church to put myself right.**

To that end, I hope you would be willing to send me the St. Dismas Guild newsletter – I could use all the guidance I can get. Thank you very much for your time.
Sincerely, J.M.

*Dear J.M., it must be an awful feeling to lose your freedom and be sentenced to a long prison term. We are already praying for you. Coming to the point of your need for God's forgiveness as well as guidance of the Church is a beginning of a whole new life for you coming to know, love and serve Jesus Christ. When you get to know Jesus, you will realize how much God loves you. When you receive His personal love for you each day you will have a whole new beautiful outlook on life. It tells you in **Jeremiah 31:3 God loves you with an everlasting love.** He has been watching over you your whole life and just waiting for you to turn to him so He can give you an abundant life. Jesus says in **John 10:10, "The thief comes to steal and slaughter and destroy but I came that you may have life, life to the full."** Our workbook, bible, catechism and pamphlets will help you to receive God's love but also come to love yourself so you can love others with the love you receive from God. God bless you JM as you come to know, love and serve God alone.*

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

To St. Dismas Guild Prison Ministry, I recently wrote to your ministry to request a Catholic Bible (with footnotes for studying), and I have received it! I want to say thank you so

much for the support that you give and work that you are doing. **Your ministry is a blessing, and I am so grateful.** The New American Bible Revised Edition has everything that I asked for, the proper Catholic Canon, as well as footnotes to help with discussions in Bible Study. That is especially helpful when it comes to topics on the deuterocanonicals.

I was also happy to receive the testimonial and faith formation pamphlet in the mail. It mentions that your ministry provides Catholic Bibles, Bible Study workbooks, etc. I am curious about whether you have any material sent to help explaining doctrines of the Catholic Church? I do have a Catechism, which is very helpful, but there are some teachings of the Church that I need more insight into. For example, Marian Doctrines (Assumption and Coronation), purgatory, the Canon of Scripture, etc. (teachings that are often objected to). Again, I appreciate that your ministry is active and supportive. I am grateful for the Bible that I received, and I hope that my further request is acceptable I want to encourage you in your ministry by thanking you for supporting mine. God bless you and your loved ones.
Sincerely, T.S.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

Response to the letter by T.S.

Dear T.S., the canon of scripture was codified by the Catholic Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to include 73 books by the 4th century AD. During the protestant revolt of the 1500s, men removed 7 of them.

Divine Revelation ended with the apostles. The written word of the Bible and the Tradition lived experience of the church make up the doctrine.

The Bible does not explain or clearly show some teaching. While Jesus speaks of the Father and of the Holy Spirit, the Bible does not say ("There is one God in 3 divine persons: Father Son, and Holy Spirit"). That comes from the theology, the study of the Bible and the Tradition of the Church.

Teachings such as the Assumption were long held beliefs even though it is not explicit in Scripture. One reference is

that the Lord will not allow His just one to undergo decay. (**Psalm 16:10**). Jesus also promised resurrection of the body, so it has been believed from the moment her body expired, Mary was taken to heaven and given the reward of the resurrected body. In the Old Testament, the queen refers to the Queen Mother, thus theologically Mary is Queen of Heaven with Jesus as King.

If you have access to internet, go to the Catechism of the Catholic Church which will give you longer explanations and copious footnotes.

As a Catholic, just believe what the long-taught doctrine is, even if others scoff and deny it.

MARIE'S MESSAGE

Men, where is Jesus in your life?

1 Corinthians 11:3, "The head of every man is Christ, the head of the woman is her husband, the head of Christ is the Father." Even Jesus was under headship. The whole time Jesus walked this earth He was under His Father's headship, and He obediently did everything He told Him to do. The second Chapter of *Secrets of a Happy Family* is The Role of the Man. I always loved this scripture and seeing how God established the man's headship back in Genesis, in the very beginning. God formed man out of the clay of the ground and made the perfect man and gave him dominion over all He made. His relationship with God was wonderful until God said it is not good for man to be alone, so He took Adam's rib and built up a woman. I am so blessed to have had a husband who was under the headship of Christ. Ken knew God's Word, he knew Jesus. God blessed me through my husband. We had 53 years of loving each other and passing our love down to our children; not to say we didn't have our ups and downs, but God always pulled us through them. Ken knew God loved Him and He loved me with the love He received from Christ. Jesus said anyone who loves me will obey my commands. Ken used to say that the man is the problem in this world, but he is also the solution. If all the men in the world were under Christ's headship women would follow them down the mouth of a canon.

Check our List of Books or Website for, "Secrets of a Happy Family," written by Deacon Ken and Marie Finn.

DEACON KEN'S CORNER

NEWSLETTER FROM THE LATE Deacon Ken Finn dated, August 1984. Why, Why, Why?

He spoke in a whisper, trying not to sob. He was going back to prison for the third time, and he was very weary of trying to cope with even being alive. He has been in and out of drug rehab programs and long-term therapy classes. He has been sexually abused since he was six and today is a confirmed sex offender.

The nagging question is – how did this man get like this? I could describe many similar people and situations, but the question remains – why?

The success rate of change in anti-social behavior today is very low – at best holding. We have gone from a self-righteous puritan standard to a no-limit, hedonistic standard. The result being a rise in crime, broken homes, smashed people and prisons.

We have seen a tremendous slash in families, churchgoers, respect for life, respect for parents, and what I think is probably one of the biggest reasons for our decline, the lack of spiritual leaders in our homes, our churches, and in our country. The breakdown in family spiritual leadership is directly interfaced with the incredible rise in juvenile hall population, alcoholism and drug addiction. The father is called by Scripture (1 Cor. 11:3) to be the spiritual leader in his family. He is responsible for what is spiritually presented and implemented to his family. Our church leaders are responsible for presenting Jesus as our Lord to our people and bringing spirituality into the lives of their flocks, not

programs or buildings. Our civic leaders are rushing to provide bigger and better prisons. What we are doing, in many cases, is putting bandaids on malignant tumors. What is the answer? Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!

Our children are crying out to parents for spiritual leadership, and until we become spiritual leaders in our families, the prisons will continue to get bigger.

I close this newsletter by urging each one of you to take a hard long look at your own family and see where healing is needed. I urge you who are so-called leaders of your family to really ask yourself, "**Would Jesus lead my family the way I do?**" I urge you to pray, encourage, insist and exhort your church leaders to become spiritual leaders in their parishes. It is only when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior in our families and our parishes can we really ever expect our nation to be free.

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 – St. Gregory the Great – Patron saint of educators, gout, music, musicians, choirs, singers.

Sept. 5th – St. Teresa of Calcutta – Foundress of the Sisters of Charity. 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. 14th – Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Sept. 15th – The Seven Sorrows of Mary.

Sept. 23rd – St. Padre Pio – Patron saint of pain, suffering and healing, civil defense volunteers, and adolescents.

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.

Blessings to you all, **St. Dismas Guild**



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Evangelization through Scripture and Ministry to prisons. ~ www.StDismasGuild.org

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