

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 Studies, 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 OCTOBER:

is to the Most Holy Rosary...

October 2024

TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, Thank you for the monthly testimonial newsletter. I enjoy reading other inmates' testimonies. It reminds me that others are going through the same things I am and some worse off than me are finding guidance and light through their walk with God. The newsletter is something I look forward to every month. I saw that you are seeking brief testimonies, so I felt obligated to give a testimony, because of how many times I've heard something that I needed to hear in one of your newsletters.

While growing up, my childhood years and teenage years were troublesome, yet enjoyable. I grew up knowing of and believing in God, going to church and trying to improve my walk with God. I was in and out of trouble during my preteen years, my parents divorced, and school became my unlikely safe haven. I learned to play guitar and got involved in theatre. I graduated high school and moved to Chicago to go to improv. school, and life was enjoyable.

After a few years it was time to admit defeat, not in my aspirations to become a comedic actor, but in my idea that I could control my alcohol and cocaine addictions. I moved back home and began attending AA regularly. This is where my walk with God grew stronger. After a few years of sobriety, I began traveling again to pursue a career as a comedian, going across the U.S. to perform and experience life while sober. Not having a steady income, I returned back home to make some money.

While back home I was wrongfully accused of a crime. I went to trial, was over-charged by the State, and found innocent of the 1st count, but when the jury returned their verdict for Count II, it was not in my favor. It was a speedy trial. I was in and out of county jail in less than three months. I am now fighting my case on appeal and I have faith I will find justice. I prayed that God would **speak to me through the court, so I'm taking this time to grow closer to God and believing in His plans for my life.** I have been holding on to **Ephesians 2:6-8.** I pray this testimony can speak to someone else going through

something similar. I know because of our faith in God, this too shall pass. Once again, thank you for your continued outreach to people like me stuck in a bad place. Truly yours, J.A.

Dear J.A., you have had a head start in life growing up knowing God and going to church. Proverbs 22:6 says, “Train a boy in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not swerve from it.” And Hebrew 10:25 says, “We should not absent ourselves from the assembly, as some do, but encourage one another; and this all the more because you see that the Day draws near.” Although your parents divorced, they gave you a foundation. Continue praying and studying the scriptures while you are incarcerated and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you. Develop a personal relationship with Jesus through the Word of God. Thank God when he answers your prayer through the courts whether it is what you want to hear or not. “We know that God makes all things work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his decree.” Romans 8:28 God bless you.

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St. Dismas Guild, thank you so much for the “Jesus Remember Me” prayer book and the booklet on forgiveness by Presentation Ministries. Every day I spend time with my “The Bread of Life” Bible Study and the New American Bible you so generously sent me. I am so grateful for all of the wonderful material you provide.

I was raised by cynical, God-hating people but God had other plans for me, and He put me in jail so I could meet Christ and make Him my Lord and Savior! **I've never been so caged yet never felt so free! Having Christ's love in my life has totally changed me. I now love what I hated and hate what I (thought) I loved.** Your wonderful organization has helped me so much! God Bless you all! M.S.

Dear M.S. Praise God for your open heart. Yes, God knew from the beginning the plans He had for you! Ephesians 1:11 And it is in Him that we were claimed as God's chosen from the beginning under the predetermined

plan of the one who guides all things as He decides by His own will. Just like all of us we think our plans are better, and so we began to make the wrong choices and must suffer the consequences. Like you said, **“He put me in jail.”**

You were actually blessed, and placed in bondage. **Romans 12:2** Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God what is good and pleasing to Him and is perfect.”

In this blessing of seclusion, you now have the time to realize the love He has always had for you from the moment He created you. Be grateful for your transformation and keep your heart open to seek and receive all He desires to give you, as from the beginning. **Jeremiah 29:13.** **“Then you will call to Me. You will come and pray to Me and I will answer you.”** Continue to read all of **Jeremiah 29:11-14** May Our Lord continue to bless and guide you on this amazing journey. May He keep you strong even if you should fall, remember He is always there to pick you up.

Romans 12:11-12 **“Work hard and do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion. Let your hope keep you joyful. Be patient in your troubles and pray at all times.”** You were lost, but now you have been found. Always Hope and Pray for a brighter tomorrow. **Our prayer for you, read Ephesians 3:17-23**

DEACON KEN’S CORNER

LETTER FROM THE LATE DEACON KEN FINN, dated October 1985

I received a letter from a young woman in state prison. She stated, “Chaplain I am afraid I am losing my mind. I have terrible nightmares, and the violence is something indescribable.” She went on to tell about other inmates that were assaulted and even seen one woman stabbed to death. “Jesus was never in my life until I came to jail and began praying with you and reading the Bible.”

I write to her once a month and sent her spiritual reading material and a Bible study. She never knew what it meant to be loved as a child, and she had three children at the age of 18. She knew none of the fathers of her children, and eventually she lost custody of all of them. She is new at bringing Christ into her life.

She is a heroin addict, and she still gets loaded with drugs at state prison on occasion. She has no working skills, no education other than being street wise. Yet, she is a very loving person who through the power of the Holy Spirit is beginning to take the risk and trust. She will be getting out in the spring, and she will be faced with many decisions.

I ask that you lift her up in prayer along with all others who struggle with any addictions. I believe in miracles, and I believe your prayers will help bring the miracle into this 23-year-old child of God. Pray that she will be healed of her drug addiction, pray that she will see that she is a value, and she is forgiven and loved by God.

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR OCTOBER:



“... is to the **Most Holy Rosary**. This is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7th. It was instituted to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful.” (Rev. Matthew R. Mauriello, Source: Catholic.net)

A Few FEAST DAYS:

Oct. 1st - St. Therese of Lisieux, patron of the Missions.

Oct. 2nd - Guardian Angels, Guardian angels are the special angels assigned to humans, helping us throughout our lives from conception until death.

Oct. 4th - St. Francis of Assisi, patron of Animals, Merchants, and Ecology.

Oct. 5th - St. Faustina Kowalska, patron of mercy.

Oct. 7th - Our Lady of the Rosary, patron saint of Guatemala and North Carolina.

Oct. 15th - St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin, Doctor of the Church, patron of headache sufferers and writers.

Oct. 22nd - St. Pope John Paul II, patron saint of Artists, The Missions, and Catholic Sports

PRO-LIFE

RECENT ARTICLE FROM LIFESITE NEWS ON PRO-LIFE RESCUERS BEING SENT TO PRISON

Pro-life rescuers either in or awaiting prison have made and are making generous sacrifices on behalf of their unborn brothers and sisters.

One sacrifice is the company of like-minded men and women: Christians and other people of good will who share their conviction that innocent human life is sacred. By giving up their emotional support networks of family, friends, and colleagues, our pro-life heroes are in danger of a loneliness that can be felt even – or especially – in a crowded prison cafeteria or yard. Some of them have been handed years-long sentences.

For this reason, LifeSiteNews is encouraging readers once again to write to imprisoned or sentenced American pro-lifers. We are obtaining the latest information on where several prisoners of conscience are currently serving sentences for their attempts to save the unborn. Although it is almost certain your letters will be read by prison staff before they reach our brothers and sisters, it may be that your sentiments will touch and console their hearts, too. <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/want-to-send-letters-to-imprisoned-pro-lifers>

Our team at St. Dismas Guild was happy to send letters of encouragement of the Bible Study, our list of books, and Catholic pamphlets to encourage them in their faith.

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 C the 1st Sunday of Advent, December 1st this year. Please wait until mid-October to order the New Cycle. Thank you...

FIRST COME FIRST SERVE: Ten Catholic Answers Magazines available and Twenty Pamphlets called God’s Love for You.

WRITE TO US

Do you have a spiritual question, and you just don’t know who to ask? Are you experiencing moral difficulties that are hard to handle (anger, loneliness, temptations, unforgiveness, people you can’t get along with etc.)? You can be sure that others are experiencing the same. Write to us and we will print your letter with a reply in our monthly newsletter. We do not print names, only initials. Please keep your letters brief, we will edit them only when necessary.

God Bless from St. Dismas Guild

