

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
San Diego, CA  
Permit No. 2114

## 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 NOVEMBER:

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

**November 2024**



### TESTIMONY

To: St. Dismas Guild, hello, I read one of your flyers and was hoping you could send me one as well. I was raised Christian, but my role models were drunks and druggies. I was abused and hurt so I went away from God and into Rosicrucianism, Wicca, Native Shamanism and finally into stoic philosophy- but none of these filled the void like Jesus did for me as a child.

I want to become Catholic but was raised Protestant. I've sent our chaplain a request for the Catholic Catechism so I can learn what's required of me- hope he responds. Anything you are able to send me to help me become a Catholic would be much appreciated. God bless you! N.T.

Dear N.T., God formed you in the womb of your mother- **“you are fearfully, wonderfully made”** (Psalm 139:14). You are blessed you had a Christian upbringing even though your role models were drunks and druggies. God's hand has been on you even before you were formed in the womb. Your lack of knowledge of the Word, Jesus, brought you into Satanism. Satan who is the author of sin and sickness, and death has no hold on you because 1 John 4:4 says, **“You belong to God, children, and you have conquered them, for the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”** Jesus is the author of life and Satan is the author of death. John 10:10 says, **“The thief comes only to steal, slaughter and destroy, I came that they might have life and have it to the full.”** The Catholic Catechism is mostly made up of scripture and is a perfect addition for you along with the bible study we offer. Remember, your teacher is the Holy Spirit who teaches you and reminds you of all Jesus said and did when He walked this earth in the flesh. As you get stronger in the Word, you will be able to resist the devil; he is prowling around like a roaring lion. In closing, 1 Peter 5:8-9 will help you and all who are struggling in this battle. **“Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in faith knowing that your fellow believers throughout the world undergo the same sufferings.”** God bless you abundantly.

### DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Blessings from God and our Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for the Bible Study El Pan de Vida that you sent me. It was difficult to follow at first, but I kept trying and I have to say I really like it very much and I am very grateful. I really like how it is structured with the readings and the homily message of the Sunday mass and how it applies to my life and to my week- thank you very much. I realize now how much I need to learn about my faith and this Bible Study is very helpful. Blessings, H.G.

H.G., Blessings to you too. You are very welcome for receiving the Spanish Bread of Life. Your perseverance is to be commended, and the Lord is very pleased with you. You hang in there and you will be rewarded as you continue to come to know Jesus. I think you may have found it difficult at first because this bible study is different from others in the fact it is to help you come into a personal relationship with God (besides having some of what we call “head” knowledge). The focus is on relationships, which encounter the heart. Each question helps you come to know God, the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Once you come into a deep love for Jesus, you will come to know the love of the Father and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity. The message is simple: God loves you unconditionally and when you receive that love you will be able to love others. The Mass is God's love manifested through the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Jesus suffered and died taking all our sins on Himself so we could be free from sin, sickness and death. Keep persevering H.G. and pick up your cross every day. **“If a man wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross and begin to follow in my footsteps.”** (Matthew 16: 24) When you get to know Jesus, you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

### DEACON KEN'S CORNER

A MAN CAME RUNNING ACROSS THE STREET, yelling at the top of his lungs, “Chaplain, it's me..., don't you remember?” I looked at him for a moment and then we

hugged and shook hands warmly and stood there on the sidewalk talking about Jesus, family, and jail. He had just completed a three-year sentence in state prison and was back in town.

He told me that in state prison, drugs, sex and alcohol we're available if you had the money. He told me that the healing power of Jesus had kept him from being destroyed and that he was now a committed man of God's word. He then started to quiver and almost cry, because his wife fell back into drugs while he was doing time. We both prayed for her then and will continue to pray for her on her own trip through hell. He will be going back to prison for another crime, so I ask you to keep him in your prayers. I read to him a message from scripture (Lamentations 3:40) *"let us search our ways and turn again to the Lord."* Their children will remain in a foster home until the situation of the parents is resolved.

### SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

**ANGER IS A HUMAN EMOTION** that arises in us to push away something we experience as threatening at that moment. It is not sinful. The emotion of anger, however, can block our reason in the mind, and can overwhelm our soul at that moment.

The expression of the anger by using violence in speech and action is called "ire" which is sinful. Ire is the expression that punishes or silences the other. Sometimes, however, the better choice may be to defend yourself if threats to life and limb are present as I am told happens in prison.

Certainly, anger management classes can help. It may be the better choice to avoid violence in speech and action until the anger subsides. When a Christian is alone with the Holy Spirit, he can bring to God the anger and the situation for God's care of the soul, and later express what needs to be said. 1 Peter 3:14-16 is a guide for me, *"But even if you should suffer because of righteousness, blessed are you. Do not be afraid or terrified with fear of them but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame."*

Wherever Christians are is their church. In danger of death and no priest available, you should baptize a non-Christian with water over the head and the formula, *"I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"* (Matthew 28:19).

Confession to God directly may be the only way you can express your sorrow for sin. This is good and acceptable, until you can do so in the Sacrament of Penance when a priest visits you.

### 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"** (1 Thessalonians 4:13). 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)



**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

### A Few FEAST DAYS:

**Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> - 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> - 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. 11<sup>th</sup> - St. Martin of Tours**, patron of the poor; soldiers; tailors; winemakers.

**Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> - St. Frances Xavier Cabrini**, Patron: hospital administrators; immigrants; orphans.

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

### PRO-LIFE

#### OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS (LifeSiteNews) —

Pro-lifers have finished the world's longest-spanning pro-life event, forming a massive cross-shaped relay as they walked and ran over 5,000 miles across America on October 19. The pro-life relay began in September in four corners of the United States, including California, New York, Texas, and North Dakota. The relay covered 12 million steps, making it the longest-spanning pro-life event in the world.

### MESSAGE FROM SDG DIRECTOR

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE INMATES** who have provided their testimonies and appreciation letters over these 42 years. You have touched so many lives with your stories! *We always welcome new testimonies*, so if you have not sent us yours, please consider doing so!

The formula for a testimony is as follows:

- 1/3 – Your life **prior** to meeting Christ
- 1/3 – **How** you met Christ
- 1/3 – Your life **now** that you are walking with Him.

+++++

**We begin Cycle C the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 1st. this year.** Please place your order for our Cycle C workbooks.

+++++

**FIRST COME FIRST SERVE** - We have 10 booklets entitled "God the Father: I Am Here to Do Your Will."

+++++

### Prayer Before Elections:

**Lord God**, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community. We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.

We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender. We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom. We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace. We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

*May the Lord bless and keep you,  
St. Dismas Guild*

