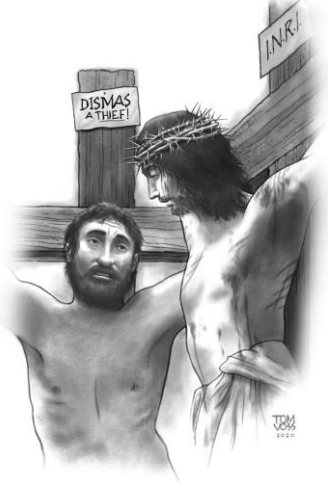


St. Dismas Guild
P.O. Box 2129
Escondido, CA 92033

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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.

The Churches Dedication For DECEMBER:
is to the **Immaculate Conception of Mary...**

December 2024

TESTIMONY

My dearest beloved brothers and sisters at St. Dismas Guild, May the Lord's blessings be upon each of you, your families, the venerable apostolate, the Church, and the world. Thank you so much for the time and effort each of you put into the body of Christ imprisoned. Here is my testimony:

I grew up in a small town around 2 hours from the border of Oklahoma and Kansas (in Oklahoma). While growing up, at age 4 or 5, I had been molested by my paternal great-uncle, watched my mother have four strokes, and suffered other traumas. The only exposure to Christ I had was from my maternal grandmother (R.I.P.). She was a devout Lutheran, but my mother, even though I was baptized as an infant, dabbled in the new age spiritualities. I was quickly drawn in and grew to hate God. In my teenage years I became more and more depressed as well as attempted suicide several times (two very close calls). By the time I graduated high school, I had been initiated as an acolyte in the false religion of Wicca. In 2018, I converted to Homeric Hellenism, hence one reason I'm in prison. I was using drugs, so I didn't feel the pain anymore.

In 2016, I met the love of my life, but the Lord saw fit to grant the enemy power to destroy my family. I pray every day to be reconciled with her, and I offer my sufferings and atonement for her sins and pray for her (and our daughter's) protection. **While in prison on December 28th, 2021, I met the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.** After a year of diligent study of Christianity in general, I found that only the one holy Catholic and Apostolic Roman Church is the fulfillment of the whole law and prophets. So, on December 15th, 2022, I was confirmed into the Holy Mother Church. Praise God! It's my sincere hope that you'll be able to send me both the Catholic Answers magazine and a copy of the pamphlet called "God's Love for You". Sincerely and in peace, your brother in Christ, S.G.

Dear S.G., Thank you so much for sending us your testimony. All those traumas growing up gave you an image of God that was terribly distorted. You say you met him

while in prison. He knew you in the womb of your mother, you are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). When you wandered off, He was out there searching for you, His lost sheep. He took his crook and wrapped it around your neck and said, "Welcome home. I have been waiting for you." When you were baptized and confirmed, you received the grace of the Trinity. God loves you with an everlasting love, Jeremiah 31:3 tells us. He has loved you from the beginning of your existence and has claimed you for His own prize possession. There is no love greater than the love God has for you and all of us.

You were exposed to Christ through your grandmother. What a blessing that was for you. As an infant you were baptized and that grace you received at baptism is what got you to where you are today. I don't know where your dad was and it doesn't sound like you had male leadership in your home, but now being baptized and confirmed your role model is Jesus Christ. When He ascended into heaven, He left you His Spirit to teach you about your real Father, God Himself. God's Word will teach you and remind you of all that Jesus said and did so you can be a role model of a man who loves Jesus for your daughter and wife. Get into the word of God along with the Catechism of the Catholic Church and you will become the spiritual leader for your family. All children, male and female, are hungry for a dad who has fallen in love with Jesus. Before you read the Bible, no matter when you pick it up, say this Prayer Before Reading the Bible:

Father, I cannot understand your word without your grace. I acknowledge my weakness so your power can reach perfection in me. Send your Holy Spirit to remind, teach and guide me to the truth and may I share as soon as possible whatever you teach me. Amen.

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St. Dismas Guild, Before I start - - thank you, Our God, for people like you. I read the Basic Catechism, and it touched my heart to be that follower of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and Our Mother of God, Mary, who loves us dearly. In the picture of Mary on the Basic Catechism she looked so real that I see her blush red and tears come down

her face. I love her like I love the Father and Son of the Mother of God whom I love with all my heart. Thank you for sending me the understanding of a true Christian. Sincerely, C.C.

Dear C.C., When Jesus, the creator of the universe died on the cross, He had no material possessions... no money or house, and even His clothing was divided up between those who crucified Him. But there was one thing precious to Him, His Mother. In His great love, He gave this precious gift to us. Mary loves and intercedes for us as only a mother can and in turn, all she asks of us is to "Do whatever He tells you" John 2:5. Holy Mary, Mother of God, (and my mother) pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

DEACON KEN'S CORNER

Letter from the late Deacon Ken Finn dated, May 1982.

After receiving my chaplaincy training at Mercy Hospital in 1979 I began receiving requests to visit inmates at the local county jail in Vista, California. It really opened my eyes to the need for the Gospel of Jesus Christ among inmates at all of the jails in San Diego County, as indeed every Penal Institution in this country. Since then, God has opened many doors in this much needed ministry.

Recently, I received a letter from an inmate who was convicted of murder and sent to state prison who related the impact of the healing power of Jesus in his life. "I think often about Vista and the work you're doing there. Those months I spent there with the toughest I've ever faced, and I want you to know that you helped me an awful lot. I especially remember the time we knelt down in that little visiting room and prayed together. I knew the Lord heard that prayer, and on that day, I knew that no matter what happened, I would come out of this a stronger person. Your prayers, encouragement, and your faith in me had a lot to do with that. So please keep up your work. I know there are a lot more guys there who need you."

We are committed to this ministry to reach the imprisoned, the hospitalized, and their families with the message of Love and Encouragement of Jesus and to see their faith grow...

PRO-LIFE

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Church's position on abortion is based on three foundational principles: *Human dignity, Solidarity, and Subsidiarity*. As Catholics, we oppose the legalization of direct threats to innocent life, including abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, and unjust war. We also work for a culture that promotes the dignity of life. (<https://catholic.duke.edu/why-are-catholics-pro-life>)

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

"When I read the Bible, I don't know where to begin, what would you suggest?"

Years ago, when I started reading the bible, neither did I know where to begin. The bible can be divided into **Sections** - the law, historical, wisdom, prophets, gospels and acts/epistles.

The Old Testament –

The Law: Genesis to Deuteronomy

The Historical Books: Joshua to 2 Maccabees

The Wisdom Books: Job to Sirach

The Prophets: Isaiah to Malachi

The New Testament -

The Gospels: Matthew to John

The Acts of the Apostles & The Letters

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

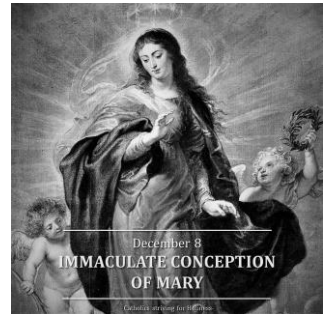
On Facebook and Twitter @StDismasGuild

Start at the first book in each **section** and read chapter 1. Next day read the next chapter from the same book in the section. You will finish some sections faster, so just start over in the same section

Continue to read the other sections and then start over when done. **6 chapters each day.** Then it will start to make sense. Bless you in your faith...

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCH'S DEDICATION FOR DECEMBER: ...is to the **Immaculate Conception of Mary**, "From all eternity God chose with infinite wisdom the woman who would be the Mother of His divine Son. To prepare for the Word Incarnate a spotless and holy tabernacle, God created



Mary in grace and endowed her from the moment of her conception with all the perfections suited to her exalted dignity. St. Thomas teaches that through her intimacy with Christ, the principle of grace, she possessed beyond all creatures a fullness of divine life." — *Liturgical Meditations*, The Sisters of St. Dominic (catholicculture.org)

A Few FEAST DAYS:

Dec. 1st – First Sunday of Advent. A new liturgical year, Cycle C, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the Faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord.

Dec. 8th – Immaculate Conception of Mary, Holy Day of Obligation.

Dec. 9th – St. Juan Diego

Dec. 12th – Our Lady of Guadalupe

Dec. 25th – Christmas, Holy Day of Obligation.

Dec. 31st – Feast of the Holy Family

MESSAGE FROM SDG DIRECTOR

JOIN US IN PRAYING THE CHRISTMAS NOVENA:

The St. Andrew Christmas Novena is a meditative prayer that is traditionally said 15 times a day from November 30th to Christmas Eve. The prayer is intended to help people prepare for Christ's coming and remember the true meaning of Christmas. The prayer is as follows:

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. **In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God** to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

The origins of the prayer are unknown, but it is thought to have originated in Ireland. The prayer is named after St. Andrew, one of Jesus' twelve Apostles. St. Andrew's feast day on November 30th comes before Christmas and helps to mark the start of Advent.

To grow in a personal relationship with God, we encourage you to participate in *The Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study*. This workbook was written by our Founders Deacon Ken and Marie Finn. It follows the Liturgical Calendar of the Church and helps prepare you for the upcoming Sunday Mass readings. **We begin Cycle C on Dec. 1st, 2024. Request yours today... This is not a correspondence course.**

Christmas Blessings,
St. Dismas Guild

