

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

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St. Dismas Guild ~ Prison Ministry

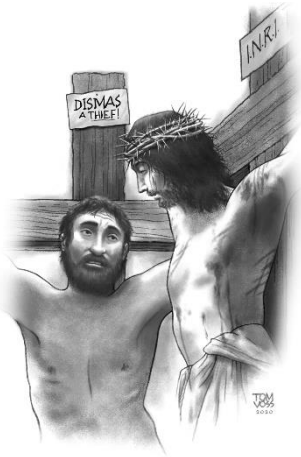
“Lord, when did I see you ...in prison, and not help you?” Matt. 25:44

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.

We have been Blessed over many years by one Sponsor in particular and wish to extend our deepest appreciation to A1 Self Storage - www.A1Storage.com

March 2025



TESTIMONY

Greetings, I'm writing to you to request Any materials to read that will help further my journey with the Catholic faith. I also request the Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study.

I came back to the one, true, church by means of our Protestant brethren who refuted my arguments that I was agnostic. I looked at his church (Lutheran) and at first it was attractive. I began to think **I should go back to church** after 40 years, (Baptized and Confirmed Roman Catholic.)

When I was arrested in 2013 I had access to all sorts of religious materials in our county jail but 99% of it was Protestant. I was really leaning that way until one night after spending the day reading the Bible, I had a vision of the Lord Our Savior saying, **“Be content in My Word and you will have the Truth.”** Wow!

Even though most would say I have ruined my life by what I did, **I am truly contrite about it and have gone to confession and done my penance** and I've got to say these last 11 years have maybe been not the happiest but the most Joy-filled.

As I stated above, my coming in and out of prison, not on new charges, but on technical violations, I am without some of my Catholic items. Whatever you can send know that I am most grateful. R.W.

Dear R.W., *“Be content in My Word and you will have the Truth”*. Those are very profound words. You are blessed to have had such an intimate and life-changing experience. It would benefit all of us to meditate on those words. Jesus said, **“I am the way, the truth and the life.” John 14:6**. How can you know the truth unless you know Jesus and the way to know Jesus is to study His Word.

Your Protestant brothers led you back to the Word but what was missing were the sacraments that are available in the Catholic church. Read and study **John Chapter 6**, the Bread of Life discourse. You will see that Christ is present in the Word and in the Eucharist. Study the Bible, pray daily, go to confession and receive Jesus in the holy Eucharist as often as it is available to you.

We are sending you the Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study, a Bible and some pamphlets as you requested. Use your time in prison to grow in love for God and bring others to Him. Become a saint!

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

What is Eschatology?

In regard to eschatology, the end time when Jesus will come to judge the living and the dead, I refer you first to 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

15 "Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

*16 For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and **the dead in Christ will rise first**. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, **will be caught up together** with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus, we shall always be with the Lord."*

“Will be caught up together...” can be translated as enraptured or embraced or rapture. It refers to the final movement from earth to heaven for the faithful.

Romans 2:5-8 *“The just judgment of God, who will repay everyone according to His works: eternal life to those who seek glory, honor, and immortality through perseverance in good works, but wrath and fury to those who selfishly disobey the truth and obey wickedness.”*

“Eschatology is the study of the eschaton, of the **last things**. It deals with God's eternity and man's final relationship with God. And so, it pertains to questions concerning **death, judgment, heaven, hell, and purgatory**, the particular and final judgments, the resurrection of the body, and the new heavens and the new earth...”
SimplyCatholic.com

SACRED TRADITION

The Churches Dedication for March:

The **Solemnity of St. Joseph** is a special landmark this month in which we will celebrate the great honor bestowed upon the foster father of Jesus. Also, the Solemnity of the Annunciation and St. Dismas Feast Day (March 25) when we ponder Our Lady's fiat.



Except for the first day, the entire month of March falls during the liturgical season of Lent which is represented by the liturgical color violet or purple – a symbol of penance, mortification, and the sorrow of a contrite heart. All saints' days that are usually Memorials are shifted to Optional

Memorials during the season of Lent.

A Few FEAST DAYS:

March 5th – Ash Wednesday

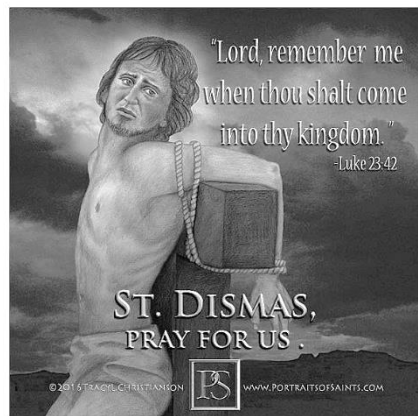
March 17th – St. Patrick died in 461.

March 19th – St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

March 25th – Annunciation of the Lord

March 25th – St. Dismas, was the so-called “Good Thief” who was crucified along with another thief and Jesus on the hill called Golgotha on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Writing centuries apart, two Church Fathers, Tertullian and Augustine, claimed that the three died on **March 25, the date that was designated as Dismas’s Feast Day.**

The Gospel of Luke relates Jesus’ conversation with the two thieves... Jesus was taunted by one thief, who challenges, “**Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us.**” (Luke 23:39) But the other thief, the **Good Thief**, takes the opposite view.



The Good Thief recognizes that Jesus is innocent and has done nothing wrong. He also acknowledges that Jesus is the Messiah, by saying to Him, “**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**” (Luke 23:42) To which Jesus

replies, “**Amen, I say to you today, you will be with me in paradise.**” (Luke 23:43)

DISMAS IS THE PATRON SAINT OF THOSE CONDEMNED TO DEATH...

<https://ucatholic.com/saints/saint-dismas/>

DEACON KEN’S CORNER

Letter from the late Deacon Ken Finn dated, March 1986

Scripture says, “**He who believes in me out of his heart will flow rivers of living water**” (John 7:38). Jesus tells us that the rivers of living water will flow from the heart of one who believes in him. He looked up at me and smiled almost apologetically and said in a very subdued manner, “I cried river of tears before I realized that the power of that scripture passage was meant for me.” His eyes were the eyes of someone who had seen enough pain for a whole city of people. He kept looking at some distant places he talked. “Chaplain, when I went to Folsom State prison three years

ago, I never thought that I would doubt if God was really real. “He went on to tell how despair is the order of the day. The only time you could breathe easy was when you were locked alone in your cell at night. He has watched people being stabbed, sexually assaulted, and, on two occasions, even being murdered. He has been sexually assaulted himself several times and has been stabbed three times. He stated that only the power of Jesus Christ has kept him alive. He tried to recall the prayers he knew as a child, and he read scripture almost four hours every day. He said he never knew what it meant to have a prayer life until he went to Folsom. “I used to say my prayers at meals and a quick one before going to bed.” He now spends several hours a day in prayer, not only for himself but for others. Jesus’s suffering and going to the cross for all of us is more than just a story for him. He said “**Chaplain, Jesus’ death and Resurrection has won us freedom, and knowing that I will spend the rest of my life here, I have already found the truth in his promise already.**” He asked that I “**encourage people to pray for all the inmates in prisons across the country.**” Satan is alive and his hell is burning brightly in prisons all across the country. Only the realization that Jesus is Lord and risen will break the chain of despair that goes on in the prisons. I ask that you lift up this young 23-year-old man in your prayers during this Lent/Easter time. Pray that the power of the Risen Lord will bring him and all inmates Life and Hope.

PRO-LIFE

O Mary, Mother of Jesus, and Mother of us all, we turn to you today as the one who said "Yes" to Life. "You will conceive and bear a Son," the angel told you. Despite the surprise and the uncertainty about how this could be, you said yes. "**Be it done unto me according to your word.**"

Mary, we pray today for all mothers who are afraid to be mothers. We pray for those who feel threatened and overwhelmed by their pregnancy. Intercede for them, that God may give them the grace to say yes and the courage to go on. May they have the grace to reject the false solution of abortion. May they say with you, "**Be it done unto me according to your word.**" May they experience the help of Christian people and know the peace that comes from doing God's will. Amen

MESSAGE FROM SDG DIRECTOR

How to write a Testimonial...

We welcome personal Testimonies and questions for our Spiritual Director for the Newsletter, though we cannot publish each one we receive. Please write and tell us your story.

Format your testimony in this way–

1/3 Where was God in your Life, Child/Teenage years?

1/3 How did Christ change your life?

1/3 How is God working in your life now?

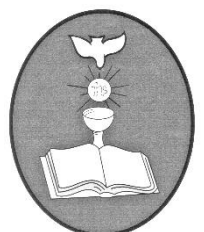
Please limit your testimony to 500 words.

Our team offers prayers for you and all your special intentions

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If you are interested, Creative Options, Academy of Human Development is a non-profit organization offering Christian based correspondence courses in anger management, parenting, 12-step AA/NA, etc. for incarcerated individuals. For more information, you may write to P.O. Box 181409, Coronado, CA 92118-9998.

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



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