

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

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St. Dismas Guild ~ Prison Ministry

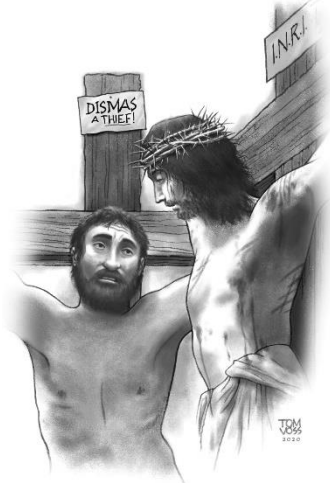
“Lord, when did I see you ...in prison, and not help you?” Matt. 25:44

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 Church's Dedication for April is
The Blessed Sacrament and The Holy Spirit**

April 2025



DOING TIME WITH JESUS

My name is T.S., I was recently released from incarceration at the San Bernardino County High Desert Detention Center. I am proud to give thanks to God for bringing me through such a potentially dark time in my life. This time has caused much destruction. But glory to God, He has shone light wherever He leads me, and I look back on the blessings. I accepted each day in the detention center as a day in God's field. Where Jesus says that **the harvest is plenty, but the laborers are few**, I heard my calling (**Matthew 9:35-38**). I hope that the lives I touched are impacted toward their relationship with our Heavenly Father. However, to be honest, I did continually ask that this season of harvest might be done and that I be allowed to go home. I am grateful that due to changes in circumstances, at an unexpected time, I was released from over a year of incarceration. My situation is not complete though and there is still a journey ahead, so please do pray for my family as there is much healing that I hope for.

I would like to thank everyone at the St. Dismas Guild Prison Ministry. Your work in supporting those in need is a blessing. I first came across your ministry's information through a friend in the dorm who had a list of ministries from the chaplain. I looked through the list and saw "Catholic Bibles"! I was excited to write and within a few weeks I received an NAB study Bible with footnotes, and historical references, it was perfect for the studies I was working on. About a month later I met a young man who'd just gotten arrested. He wanted to learn about the Bible, so I sat with him, and we read each day.

He was able to post bail within a few days but before leaving I asked if he had a Bible at home and he said no, so I sent him home with mine. I had other versions for myself, but that was my only Catholic Bible. A few

months later I came across an order form from the St. Dismas Guild, for Bibles, pamphlets, etc. I thought that I'd give it a shot to see if I can get a new Bible and a catechism, and again I was so stoked within a few weeks when they were both delivered. Thank you so much, each of you working with the ministry, your efforts are as crucial as they are effective. The love that you show for those in need is showing those in need the love of God. Please keep up your wonderful work, and may God bless you and your families. Respectfully, T.S.

It is great T.S. you are looking back at the blessings and not the negative things in your life. The Holy Spirit is leading you to bring others to Himself. He has put that desire in your heart to spread the Good News of salvation to the lost, the drug addict, the prostitute, the drunk, the murderer, the thief, the self-righteous, the pedophile, the sinner. Jesus' love was demonstrated by what He did by His death on the cross, the innocent one, in obedience to His Father, Our Father.

*Deacon Ken had that love for prisoners, the love of Jesus Christ, as the Holy Spirit moved in him to draw the sinner to repentance. Your excitement in receiving the bible to learn more about the God who is love was motivated by the Holy Spirit. Learning about the God who loves you and motivates you to do good and turn away from evil, who heals you from all the false accusations and malicious speech will give you the desire of your heart. The healing you are hoping for will take place because of your desire that all you touched be drawn to our heavenly Father. All in God's timing. His timing is perfect. When you're locked up, one of the virtues God teaches us is patience and **love is patient and kind as 1 Corinthians 13:8** tells us. **Read 1 Corinthians 13** in its entirety, as it defines what Love is and what it is not. We should all take time to reflect on this passage,*

inviting the Holy Spirit to reveal to us the true nature of Love – both its qualities and its absence.

God bless you, T.S.. May the Lord help you see the stinkin thinkin (Deacon Ken's spelling) in your life and continue to motivate you to **make disciples of all the nations under the headship of the Church (Matthew 28:16-20)**. We are sending you a new Bible and a Prayer Book.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

THE NEED FOR BAPTISM AND CONTINUOUS CONVERSION:

In man's creation, he is wounded by original sin and is not destined for heaven yet because of this. Original sin separates us from God. Baptism cleanses man from this and orients him toward God. It is the BEGINNING of the way to heaven. Everyone does not cooperate with God's grace; some choose evil and thus are not equal in saving grace because of the life they have chosen, despite the saving grace received in Baptism. For this reason, we must seek to be continuously converted by God's saving grace. One way we can do this is by making frequent, honest visits to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, with the firm desire to sin no more. St. Paul speaks about this need for continuous conversion after Baptism in **Romans 6:1-4** – "What then shall we say? Shall we persist in sin that grace may abound? Of course not! How can we who died to sin yet live in it? Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were indeed buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life."

DEACON KEN'S CORNER

LETTER FROM THE LATE DEACON KEN FINN DATED, March 1985.

Easter is a time to celebrate the Risen Lord; risen from the dead, conquered death and because of Him you and I can face tomorrow without fear. **He died and rose from the dead so that you and I could die and rise from the dead also.** We can celebrate at this Easter time the incredible victory that Jesus Christ has won for us. We are really "Easter people" or "risen people" — all we have to do is say, "Yes Lord." He has paid the ransom for our sins, and we are free, even if we are behind bars in some far-off prison. We ask, "Wow, what will it cost?" And the answer is our yielding our hearts and minds to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus' gift to us is our faith and we really need to ask: what is faith? Faith is the loving response to the power and presence of God in your life. Faith calls for a response from you and me, to really be effective. I pray that this Easter season you will say to our Lord and Savior. Yes Lord, I thank You for dying for me, a worthless sinner. I thank You for rising from the dead for me, so that I can live forever too. I respond to Your gift of faith to me with my own "yes Lord" which will be reflected in the actions of my life. This is a prayer that will come alive as we really experience the risen Lord in our own personal life. Happy Easter!

PRO LIFE

PRAY WITH THE MARIAN BLUE WAVE THIS LENTEN SEASON...

"Are you uncertain about how to make the most of this holy Lenten season? If you haven't already, we invite you to join us in praying with American Life League's Marian Blue Wave community each week during Lent. And after!

"Marian Blue Wave is a call for Catholics and all Christians across the US to pray the rosary once a week with the specific intentions of pleading for the end of all forms of abortion (surgical, pill, contraceptive, and IVF) and for the closing of every Planned Parenthood facility in the United States. Our

prayer petitions also include praying for families hurt by abortion, for expectant mothers who are afraid and alone, and for the Holy Father, bishops, priests, and deacons to always defend Christ in the Eucharist.

"When you pray the rosary as a member of the Marian Blue Wave, you are joining a community of 10,000+ Catholics who have dedicated themselves to weekly prayer for the end of the culture of death in our country... " – ALL.org

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCH'S DEDICATION FOR APRIL: is to the Eucharist and to the Holy Spirit. This tradition has developed because Easter Sunday often falls in April, ...and during the Easter celebration we remember the Eucharistic sacrifice Christ gave us and the **Baptism in the Holy Spirit**, which would come after Jesus's resurrection. - aquinasandmore.com



A Few FEAST DAYS:

April 20th – Easter Sunday – Easter Sunday is the greatest of all Sundays and the most important of all liturgical times for Catholics. It celebrates the Lord's resurrection from the dead, culminating in His Ascension to the Father and sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church.

April 25th – St. Mark – Patron: Against impenitence; attorneys; barristers; captives; Egypt; glaziers; imprisoned people; insect bites; lions; notaries; prisoners; scrofulous diseases; Venice, Italy.

April 27th – Divine Mercy Sunday – The Feast of Divine Mercy was recorded in the diary of St. Faustina granting the biggest promise of Grace from the Devotion of Divine Mercy. On this day, all who receive communion may obtain total forgiveness of all sins, meaning that the person would go directly to heaven without suffering in purgatory. Plenary indulgences are granted by the Catholic Church by reciting certain simple prayers.

April 29th – St. Catherine of Siena – Patron: bodily ills; fire prevention; firefighters; illness; miscarriages; nurses; people ridiculed for their piety; sexual temptation; sick people; temptations. ~ catholicculture.org

FROM THE DIRECTOR/PRESIDENT

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE the reprinting of Secrets of a Happy Family in both English and now Spanish, featuring beautiful new cover art. This book will support everyone, as everyone longs to belong to a happy family. The family unit is fractured today, but if followed, this book has the power to heal families.

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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, in Child/Teenage years?

1/3 How did Christ change your life?

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

Please limit it to 500 words.

Our team offers prayers for you and all your special intentions.

Please keep our Ministry in your prayers as we keep you in ours.

A Blessed Easter Season to you all,

St. Dismas Guild

