

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

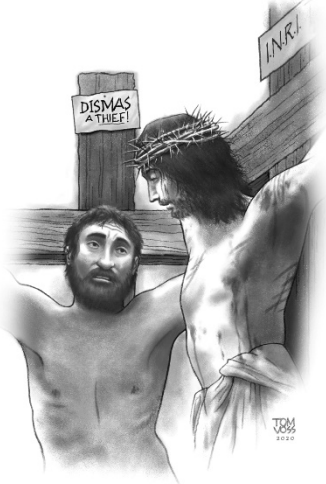
St. Dismas Guild is a nonprofit organization which provides Catholic Bibles and Bible Study workbooks, etc., free of charge, to inmates.

Donations can be made on our website www.StDismasGuild.org
or by mail, PO Box 2129, Escondido, CA, 92033.

43 years of Newsletters!

Deacon Ken Finn began writing the SDG Newsletter in May 1982!

May 2025



DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Hello, my name is T.Z., and I am an inmate in Ohio. I was raised as a Catholic as a child and walked away from the Church at 17 to explore other faiths. I am now 48 and have come back to Catholicism since we had a special Christmas Mass in 2024. I have been going through RCIA and a few other Catholic programs here in the facility on a daily basis, including weekly Mass. Since returning to my Catholic roots, I have never felt better. I am relearning about the faith as well. A few changes have happened since I have left and returned, but I am picking up on them. I just recently came upon your organization and discovered you help with Catholic books and materials for those who are not able to afford them. I earn \$20 per month here as a student and dog trainer/handler. The courts automatically take \$10 per month for fines and costs.

I am hoping to acquire three books to keep me on my Catholic journey: an up-to-date rosary warfare book, a “Daily Roman Missal,” and a nice Catholic Study Bible. I am not sure if any of these or all would be available to ask for and receive, but, if at all possible, I would be so grateful for them. I am working on getting a Rosary. The only outside help I have for anything is my fiancé, and she is living strictly off of her tax return. Since she had to leave her last job in order to work at being able to have her knee replacement done. If she did not have to go through all of this, she would go onto Amazon to order these books for me. This is the reason I am reaching out to you and asking for these materials. Again, I would be really grateful for the help. I thank you in advance, and may God bless you, your family, and your organization. Sincerely Yours in Christ Jesus, T.Z.

Dear T.Z. Jesus said in John 3:5, “Amen, Amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.” We are so happy to hear you are coming back to your roots, which probably included Baptism as a baby. What you did not understand when you were young you are now learning in RCIA classes and other sources. Not understanding who the Holy Spirit is has been difficult for many as they get older and leave the church. You can develop

a great testimony by sharing how God touched your life. We would love for you to write back to us telling us where the Lord was in your life for those 17 years, and where the Lord was in your life when you left exploring other faiths. Let us know how you came into repentance and now while in prison, are coming back into the Church. God has brought you full circle. He has been with you all these years directing you and protecting you, but sin blocked you from hearing His voice. John 14:26 says, “The Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will instruct you in everything, and remind you of all I have told you.” “In the quiet of your mind, listen for the voice of God who loves you with an everlasting love.” (Jeremiah 31:3) Hope to hear back from you with your testimony on how God has worked in your life. Please limit it to 500 words. We are praying for you. “The fruit of Baptism, or baptismal grace, is a rich reality that includes forgiveness of original sin and all personal sins, birth into the new life by which man becomes an adoptive son of the Father, a member of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit.” (CCC1279) Additionally, we do not have a “Rosary Warfare Book,” but we do have a Prayer Book that has the Rosary prayers in it. We can also send you a pro-life Rosary Pamphlet, and you may ask your Chaplain to request blessed Rosaries from us.

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

St. Dismas Guild,
I was brought up Southern Baptist, but I have been attending every service this prison offers that believes in Jesus, and I am very interested and intrigued by the Catholic service they provide. I gave up leisure reading for Lent and for these 40 days. I am only reading the Catholic Bible and was just wondering if you had any Catholic Bible studies available or maybe a Catholic pen pal available. I am not looking for money, just guidance and wisdom. I look forward to hearing from someone.
Thank you, K.K.

Dear K.K.,

Thank you for your heartfelt letter. It's moving to hear about your spiritual journey and your openness to exploring the Catholic faith. Your dedication—especially in giving up leisure reading for Lent to focus solely on the Catholic Bible—is a beautiful reflection of your desire to grow closer to Christ. We are glad to hear that you've been attending various services and are intrigued by the Catholic Mass. It's a special joy when someone seeks to learn more about the richness and depth of the Catholic tradition. We would be happy to support you on this path. Yes, we do have Catholic Bible study materials available, and we are happy to send some your way. These resources can help you better understand the Scriptures through the lens of the Church's teachings. We pray that the Lord continues to bless your heart with peace, understanding, and grace. Philippians 4:7 states, "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Know that you are not alone—God walks with you, and so do your brothers and sisters in Christ.

me." We are called to rely on Him, give our lives over to Him. We need to surrender our wills and hearts to Him, to really yield to Him. Trust in Him, believe in Him, have faith in Him. This is the only way we can really have PEACE. Alleluia. (Jesus is Lord.) Alleluia!

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCHES DEDICATION FOR MAY:

is to **The Blessed Virgin Mary**. "For this is the month during which Christians, in their churches and their homes, offer the Virgin Mother more fervent and loving acts of homage and veneration; and it is the month in which a greater abundance of God's merciful gifts comes down to us from our Mother's throne." -Pope Saint Paul VI, *The Month of May*



A Few FEAST DAYS:

- May 1st – **St. Joseph** the Worker
 - May 3rd – **Sts. Philip and James**, Apostles
 - May 13th – **Our Lady of Fatima**
 - May 14th – **St. Matthias**, Apostle
 - May 29th – **Ascension** Thursday
- ~ catholicculture.org

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

People say many things that are not true, rather that are their own opinions coming from ignorance or from malice. They have no authority of truth, so it is important not to trust in their words. God is the authority for truth and for belief. He has revealed Himself and His Truth in salvation history, recorded in the Holy Bible and the Tradition of the Holy Catholic Church. These real authorities, which can be trusted, reveal that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God the Father. At the Father's appointed time, Jesus took flesh by the power of the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin Mary with two natures, divine and human.

He taught God's truth that man could be forgiven of his sins and have eternal life after death in a new and resurrected body. That first forgiveness is given in baptism. After that through the sacrament of Penance, sins are forgiven. **People walk with God here on earth when they are free from sin and consider God above their earthly desires.** When Jesus comes again, those who are faithful to Jesus will walk with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit forever. Go to confession, receive Holy Communion, and think of God, walking with Him as best you can by His grace in this life on the journey to eternal life.

PRO-LIFE

“THE LOVELIEST MASTERPIECE OF THE HEART OF GOD is the heart of a mother.” – *St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus*
~ *Pro-Life Articles.org*

FROM THE DIRECTOR

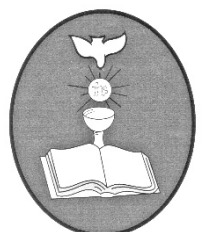
On Easter Monday, Pope Francis passed away in Rome after a 12-year pontificate. In this time of mourning, we remember him with gratitude for his commitment to humility, compassion, and justice. As the College of Cardinals prepares for the conclave beginning May 5, we pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in selecting a new shepherd for the Church. May the forthcoming papal election bring forth a leader who will guide the faithful in holiness, wisdom and grace. Let us unite in prayer for Pope Francis's eternal rest and for the Church's future.

“God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.” Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium: The Joy of the Gospel*.

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As Scripture tells us in Romans 8:38-39, **“nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.”** No trial, no failure, no prison—spiritual or physical—can keep His grace from reaching your heart. Jesus, who suffered and rose again, brings hope that is stronger than death and love that knows no limits. Trust in His mercy, lean on His promises, and take heart in knowing that your life has infinite value in the eyes of God. The Church is praying for you, and the saints in heaven are cheering you on. Keep going—grace is at work in you.

*May the peace of Christ be with you all,
St. Dismas Guild*



DEACON KEN'S CORNER

Letters from the late Deacon Ken Finn dated, April 1985, from Mission San Luis Rey Parish where he was assigned.

As we continue to celebrate the Easter season, we are reminded that Jesus is alive; He continues to live among us. *Alleluia* means Jesus is Lord. **Alleluia!** He is still here saying to anyone who will listen, “Peace be with you.” He tells us in His Gospel, “I care about you.” He is real and is concerned about the unrealness in our lives. The unrealness comes from the so-called real world pushing power, status, wealth, education, and sex on to us. God's will is where the real world is, and it is not God's will that many of our young people be hooked on alcohol and drugs.

It is not God's will that we have such promiscuity and blatant abuse of sex by our people. The result of this is a proliferation of all kinds of venereal disease. It is not the will of God that we have young people driving and drinking and killing and maiming innocent people. It is not God's will that one of the highest forms of death between the age of 15-24 is suicide. It is not God's will that every 22 seconds an abortion takes the life of a child of God. It is not God's will to have discrimination in our country, our churches and even in our families.

It is God's will that we have **PEACE** and **SALVATION**. It can only come about when we do exactly as Jesus tells us in His Gospel. He said, “Touch me, embrace me, hold on to