

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

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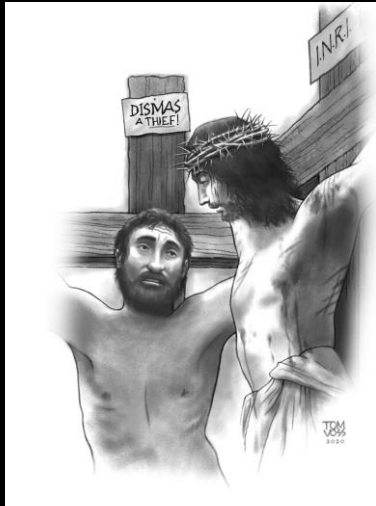
St. Dismas Guild ~ Prison Ministry

“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.

August 2025



TESTIMONY

Hello, I received the new bible study in the mail. I can't believe I finished the last one. It was extremely helpful in my growth in **Faith** (fully assured I trust Him). Through the healing eternal blood of Jesus, I've become a real Universal (Catholic) believer. Let me explain. When I was first Baptized in June 2019, I had a strong personal conviction, and I held on tight to my religion. Today I still have a strong conviction, but I dropped the religion part of me, even though I'm rooted in Catholic. Since I **love** church history, reading books on Saints and the devotion we get out of Mass, the Peace, Salvation, and Belief in Resurrection after Death.

Being Catholic my mind is not focused on worldly blessings. I can mix with other devout denominations now and be wise about my tongue speaking about Catholic stuff. **I just try to say Praise God and be nourishing blood to the members of the Body of Christ who call on the name of Our Lord.** I'm staying away from all religious arguments based on knowledge of the Word. I'm saying apply it to myself from my heart. I joined the prayer call circle now in the dorm. To me it's a small church, a daily worship call. **We do the Sign of Peace; say the Our Father prayer and we Give Thanks every day.** My mind is set on fellowship.

My Church Prison Ministry starts back on Dec. 2nd. I haven't seen them since March. I'm just glad I don't have to get into all those small arguments new believers get into when they first pick up a bible. I'm glad I'm not being someone's personal Savior either. Everybody in prison gets religion. So, it can be a big mess with all the expectations and demands another believer will put on the **Faithful**.

So, I'm sharing my experience, Strength and **Hope** to keep from falling into emotional disparity, by filling my loneliness with a friendship with Man. I'm growing to fill my loneliness with the Holy Spirit and connect that to my relationships. So, my self-esteem and confidence is founded in my personal devotion. My personal devotion is Catholic, and it makes me Strong. **Today I'm filled with Faith and Kindness (Love) for other believers.** I've been in prison

seven years, **and I'm actually feeling free on the Inside...** Blessed be God forever, Jesus Christ is Lord, The Lord is My God, The Lord Alone, Shema Israel. The Lord be with you St. Dismas Guild. Peace, D.C.

*Dear D.C., we are so excited that you are growing in **Faith**. The more you reflect on the word asking the Holy Spirit to teach you, you will grow. **“Faith comes through hearing and what is heard is the Word of God.” Romans 10:17.** You are very wise in staying away from arguments about scripture. God has truly touched your heart through the word and you, and I know that **“the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.” John 1:14***

*Applying it to yourself from your heart makes you Strong, Loving, and Wise. It's wonderful for us to hear that even in prison you can be set free. Your mind being set on fellowship says you are looking for likeminded believers (those who **Love** God and one another). Thank you for sharing your powerful testimony. **God has truly set you free.** As you set your mind on filling the loneliness with the Holy Spirit He will guide and direct you to all truth. He is reminding you of all Jesus said and did. God bless you.*

“In God we live and move and have our being.” Acts 17:28

“God is everywhere, and in everything, and without Him, we cannot exist.” St. Mother Teresa

MARIE'S MESSAGE

I wrote the following to Fr. Rich a few days ago:

A personal question on the 2nd reading from the Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study asks: Each time you receive communion, what do you hand on or pass on to others? I wrote: The death of Marie and the life of Christ within me. I am questioning my answer. Can you help me with it?

He wrote: There are so many correct answers. This is one, so that you no longer live to control your life, rather that you unite so completely with Jesus that you now live in Him and He in you.

The next day I wrote: Thank you Fr. Rich. How would you answer that question? He answered: Every time I receive holy communion, I receive a purified version of myself, which I am able to offer to other people."

Now I am curious, how would you answer this question?

I want to stress the importance of answering personal questions in the Bread of Life workbook. The personal questions are the application to the reading, putting them into action. Faith without work is dead. The conversation I had with Fr. Rich was based on the second reading from the Bread of Life workbook, one of the most important Sundays of the year, The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. **John 6:66** says, "From this time on many of His disciples broke away and would not remain in His company any longer." They didn't believe what Jesus was saying anymore because of what He said about the Eucharist, "This is my Body.... This is my Blood". When doing this bible study or any bible study it's important to remember that your teacher is the Holy Spirit. **John 14:26** is at the top of each week's lesson. **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 told you." You develop a personal relationship with Jesus by doing this.

DEACON KEN'S CORNER

Letters from the late Deacon Ken Finn dated Sept. 1982.

"America is the poorest of the poor..."

Mother Teresa of India was very simple and direct. . . She said that "America was the poorest of the poor because it has allowed one and a half million babies a year to be aborted. For a country as rich, educated, and powerful as us to allow such a terrible thing must mean that we Americans are in deep spiritual poverty."

She told us that husbands need to pray with their wives, parents need to pray with their children, and families need to pray together daily.

Mother Teresa then gave us a very special marriage blessing and invited us to kneel and join her in prayer. She closed by telling Marie and myself to go home and tell the people to return to prayer.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

On Anger and Confession

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

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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 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.*"

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 CHURCH'S DEDICATION FOR AUGUST: is to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

This month falls within the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of HOPE is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the HOPE of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the HOPE of a glorious resurrection.

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A Few Feast Days:

August 1st – St. Alphonsus Liguori, patron saint of the work of the lay people, bishop, Doctor of the Church.

August 6th – Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord.

August 14th – St. Maximilian Kolbe, patron saint of prisoners, families, and the pro-life movement, priest, martyr, prisoner in the Auschwitz concentration camp.

August 15th – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

August 18th – St. Helena, patron of converts and archaeologists, is credited with finding the True Cross.

August 20th – St. Bernard, patron of candle makers, a French monk, composed the Memorare prayer.

August 22nd – The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

August 26th – Our Lady of Czestochowa.

August 27th – St. Monica, patron saint of mothers.

August 28th – St. Augustine, patron saint of theologians.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This month, our ministry is thrilled to announce that our beloved book, *Secrets of a Happy Family*, is officially back in stock!

Families can sometimes be hard to understand and that is where this book comes in. Written by Deacon Ken and Marie Finn, this book guides you along the steps to have a happy, faith filled family through the power of God's Word in the Scriptures.

If you or someone that you know could benefit from this book, please contact our ministry to obtain your copy today!

Peace of Christ, St. Dismas Guild

