

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

We are a Catholic nonprofit that brings the Word of God to the imprisoned. We send Catholic Bibles, Bible Study workbooks, and other spiritual resources **free of charge** to inmates across the country.

Please help us continue this ministry.
Donate online at www.StDismasGuild.org
or by mail: PO Box 2129, Escondido, CA 92033

October 2026

TESTIMONY

DEAR ST. DISMAS GUILD MY NAME IS B.H., I am currently in a correctional facility and serving 4 1/2-year sentence for aggravated domestic assault. I’ve had a rough upbringing and have made a lot of mistakes. Also, since I was a teenager, I’ve been in and out of foster homes, juvenile hall, jail, rehab.

Recently, I’ve been working toward getting my high school diploma. The hard work has paid off and I’m graduating in November. Also, I’ve been attending AA meetings and recovery groups for my drug addiction. I’m making progress in these groups. I’ve also been attending church services. Church services are a new thing in my life. I’m interested in becoming a Christian. I’ve noticed some of the guys that attend Church are more positive. So, I’ve decided to reach out to St Dismas Guild on top of going to church in hopes of learning and joining the Christian community to find what I’ve been missing and work toward a more positive, happy, honest, fulfilling life.

If possible, could I get help with a Bible, a Bible study, workbook, and monthly scripture? I am excited to take this journey and be open to where it leads me.

Any information that can be sent to me would be awesome. I learned about you guys by a monthly pamphlet sent to another inmate in my unit. Thank you for your time.

Dear B.H., Congratulations. Working toward your high school diploma and attending AA meetings already shows discipline and real progress toward a fuller life.

The Holy Spirit is at work in you. You see that Christian men live differently, and that is an invitation to open your heart to Jesus. You are taking the first steps by joining a Christian community where you can learn how deeply God loves you and begin to live in that joy and peace.

Your upbringing was hard, and you did not receive the love and care you deserved. Now you have the chance to receive

the mercy of Jesus—through Scripture, prayer, and brothers who will help you live by God’s Word.

We are sending you a Catholic Bible and a Bible study workbook. If you have access to EDOVO, you will also receive our monthly newsletter. You are at the beginning of an exciting journey. Do not be discouraged. Give your life to God; He is in charge and will take care of the rest.

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HELLO, MY NAME IS W.C., it is nice to meet you. I am currently in custody since August. I regret to write y’all in these circumstances, but I need help. I lost my way again and let God, my family, my friends, myself, and everyone else down. I want to hold on to God again and never look back. I want to make it up to Him and everyone else, including myself, and never make the same mistake again. I’m so tired of falling and really want to hold on to Him and never let go again. I know He’s a good Shepherd and when a stubborn sheep keeps running away, He breaks their leg, so they learn to depend on Him since He cares for everyone.

I’m glad He kept me alive and is willing to carry me long enough till I heal and learn to walk near Him always.

I asked for a Catholic Bible from the kiosk here and they informed me that I could write to y’all for one, a rosary and a rosary prayer sheet, and any other things available to help me draw near to Him. Any other help would really be a blessing. I’m not sure what other resources y’all offer but I’m more than open to receiving them. I remember reading the daily bread and other devotionals, they really helped if you still have that available.

I would really like to speak to a priest as well if there was one willing to write to me.

Please pray for me, ask God to please heal me and to take me home when my brokenness heals enough to walk with Him once I’ve been freed. I know He’s going to make me do

some time just please ask Him to bless my court dates and defend me there so I can be home and out of prison as soon as He wants me home.

Thank you again, please pray for my family, my mom, my stepdad, my niece, my brothers and sisters, everyone in prison, and for everyone so that one day we will be exactly where God wants us in heaven with Him. Thank you and God bless you all. Sincerely, W.C.

Dear W.C., we are so sorry it takes falling and hurting the ones we love to realize our mistakes and turn to God for help. There is Mercy and Forgiveness in His holy Word and we encourage you to seek it each and every day, see especially Exodus 34:6, Psalm 103:9, Isaiah 1:18, Luke 23:34, and John 8:11. Your image of the Good Shepherd carrying home the wounded, stubborn sheep is exactly right, He has not let go of you, and the desire in your heart to hold onto Him is already His grace at work. A Catholic Bible and Bible Study workbook are being sent to you, and your letter has been passed on to one of our mentors. Your prayers are being offered for your healing, your court dates, and for your family. God bless you, W.C.

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 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 good 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...

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

DEAR ST. DISMAS GUILD, MY NAME IS C.H. and I am a Catholic and a prisoner. I’ve written before and I’ve appreciated your spiritual advice from Fr. Richard and Marie on what troubles my heart and scripture.

I am writing now because my divorce from my former wife is expected to be finalized in September. She had spoken of divorce at times in the past, and my imprisonment became the last straw that led her to file while I am still incarcerated. I have not been the most faithful husband throughout our marriage, and she has also acknowledged her own failings. We have two sons. She and the boys have fallen away from the Catholic Church.

I am asking for guidance on how to move forward. What is my place in the Church now? Once I am released, I intend to seek an annulment. After that, how can I still belong to the Church and live as a faithful Catholic? Thank you for any help you can give.

Dear C.H., When you wed in the Sacrament of Matrimony, God united the two of you to Himself as a couple in a covenant. When you wed civilly, you enter into a contract with each other with the state as witness. Civil divorce ends the contract with the provisions agreed upon by the couple, but you remain in the covenant unless an annulment is granted.

As a Catholic, you are called to the chaste life either with your wife, or alone if she is no longer with you because of imprisonment or civil divorce. Thus, you remain a member in good standing in the church to participate in the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist, and to engage in another ministry as you and your pastor decide.

When you can do so, you may guide your sons back to the faith which is your right and duty as their father.

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCH’S DEDICATION FOR OCTOBER: “...

is to the Most Holy Rosary. This is primarily because the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7th. It was instituted to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful. (Rev. Matthew R. Mauriello, Source: Catholic.net)



- A Few FEAST DAYS:**
Oct. 1st - St. Therese of Lisieux, patron of the Missions.
Oct. 2nd - Guardian Angels, Guardian angels are the special angels assigned to humans, helping us throughout our lives from conception until death.
Oct. 4th - St. Francis of Assisi, patron of Animals, Merchants, and Ecology.
Oct. 5th - St. Faustina Kowalska, patron of mercy.
Oct. 7th - Our Lady of the Rosary, patron saint of Guatemala and North Carolina.
Oct. 15th - St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin, Doctor of the Church, patron of headache sufferers and writers.
Oct. 22nd - St. Pope John Paul II, patron saint of Artists, The Missions, and Catholic Sports

MESSAGE FROM SDG DIRECTOR

TO GROW IN A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with God, we encourage you to participate in **The Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study** workbook, written by our Founders Deacon Ken and Marie Finn. This workbook follows the Liturgical Calendar of the Church and helps prepare you for the upcoming Sunday Mass readings. **We begin Cycle B on the 1st Sunday of Advent, November 29th. this year.** Please wait until mid-October to order the New Cycle.

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WRITE TO US - Do you have a spiritual question and no one to ask? Are you struggling with anger, loneliness, temptation, unforgiveness, or confusion reading the Bible? You are not alone.

Write to us. We will print your letter—initials only—together with a reply in our monthly newsletter. Please keep letters brief; we will edit only when necessary.

Your questions will be sent to Fr. Rich and/or one of our mentors so they can write back to you.

May the Lord bless and keep you...

