



St. Dismas Guild

June 2018



"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

PO Box 2129 Escondido CA 92033 – www.stdismasguild.org

TESTIMONY

Thank you for your encouraging words each month. I am learning to put God first in my life and praying. Thanking God for all He's done in my life past, present, and future. I am blessed daily, God's word keeps me strong, faithful, truthful, honest.

I love the first commandment, praise God. I should've died long ago, but God has work that is unfinished. For He knows best, I don't! Also Proverbs 3:5-6 are amazing,

I am in a crisis unit, and I am LWOP – +19 years. I do know that one day I'll be released. This I know that God is good, may He and only He be praised And worshipped forever.

Life is not easy in prison. I try not to get involved with all the gossip, weapons, drugs, porn, that surrounds us. I have tried to take my life several times in the past.

I ask for prayers for my family, my mother 88, my sister and last for myself. As Paul said, forgetting the past and looking forward.

The day I see God face-to-face I will say this, forgive me God for I am a sinner, no excuses. Just like the tax collector who beat his breast saying, God be merciful to me a sinner, Luke 18:9-14.

Life is good and bad, I pray one day to be accepted into your arms in heaven, just as the prodigal son was accepted by his father.

Please send me any literature to help me in my Catholic Christian walk. I would like info on my next very important question. In my past, I have studied with 7th day Adventist, Christians, Protestants, and I am Catholic. To me, I believe all church services proclaiming Jesus is God, is OK. I feel there is too many arguments over this or that church. I pray one day that there is unity amongst all denominations. I don't have hate for anyone, love, helping, encouraging one another. Love thy neighbor...

What I don't like to see is evil people around the world use God's name in vain, for evil, that is not right. The Pope talked about unity, peace, love. We need to study the Word of God, Bible, inspired by God into holy men, instead of what other religious services do, putting others down is not biblical. Let's start seeing the good in all people, things, let's focus on doing good, not publicly but privately. For God sees all.

May St. Dismas Guild prosper and grow. We thank you for all you do for those free and the incarcerated, the forgotten, that's what I call us prisoners. I believe the free people don't really know what it's like in here. Prison, it's a whole different world! Lastly, please pray for us incarcerated prisoners. Praise God, I.C.

*Dear IC, you're right, you go to prison and are forgotten, left alone... but that is where God has drawn you to Himself. It is obvious you have come to know Jesus through His Word. We on the outside have no idea of the hell you go through in prison. Going through it you have found Jesus. **He no longer calls you His servant but His friend.** Alleluia. Unity will come when we all truly learn to love as Jesus loves us. His love is sacrificial. It's dying to self, our needs, wants, etc. Jesus fills our needs when we come to Him and do what He says in His all-powerful Word. God is the source of all*

that is good. You have a lot to offer to others right where you are.

You say your mom is 88 yrs. old... she is getting ready to go and look in the face of Jesus. She is waiting on Him to call her home in His time. Call or write to her about Jesus' Love and your Love for her. Forgive her before she dies for any fault she may have passed on to you and tell her you Love her. Ask her to forgive you for any pain you inflicted on her. This will be the greatest gift you could ever give her. You also say, "The day I see God face-to-face..." Well, God is Here and Now, so don't wait, tell Him everything now before it's too late... We are praying for you and all the inmates who take the time to write to us. Know that all of your letters are placed in our chapel and prayed over each day. God bless you.

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St. Dismas Guild, I am writing to let you know of my change of address and ask if you could please send me the Bread of Life, Cycle B (Please).

I really enjoy the newsletters you send me as a lot of the testimonies from inmates really hit home with my feelings.

It is a blessing for me to have become a Catholic eight years ago. I got off track of my life a few years back and was incarcerated in 2017. A real eye opener! I am now doing time until 2021. I became an active member of the Catholic group at my previous location until my transfer to my current facility where I will finish out the remainder of my time.

With the help of God, I am now back on track with my life and will be able to be the person God meant me to be when I am released. I say prayers daily for all the inmates that are incarcerated and pray that they can lead a life with the Lord in their hearts after they are released. Please say some prayers for me that my wife will see it in her heart to let me back into her life after I get released. She means so much to me.

Thank you for any material that you are able to send me, including the Bread of Life bible study Cycle B, if at all possible. May God continue to bless you "all" for the nice things you do for us inmates who are incarcerated and for all the other believers you help. God Bless, R.K.

*Thank you for writing R.K. Your letter testifies to the mercy of God. As you cooperate with His grace, your life is back on track and will remain as long as you remain faithful. "Let us search and examine our ways, and return to the Lord." **Lamentations 3:40***

*Brother R, you are already becoming the man God meant you to be. You are using your time in prison wisely by studying and praying for other inmates. Begin a devotion to Saint Joseph, the husband of Mary, and learn to practice his virtues to become the best man you can be. Put your life in God's hands and trust in His plans for you. **"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you...plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope."** Jeremiah 29:11. We will pray for all your needs in a Holy Hour to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.*

St. Dismas Guild: Catholic Evangelization through Scripture and ministry to the prisons.

www.stdismasguild.org . PO Box 2129 Escondido CA 92033

FAMILY MINISTRY

The Church's Dedication for June 2018: June is the month of the Sacred Heart. A devotion long practiced privately, it was officially approved in the 1800's. Devotion the Sacred Heart encourages participation in Holy Hour Eucharistic Adoration and to receive Holy Communion on the first Friday of every month.

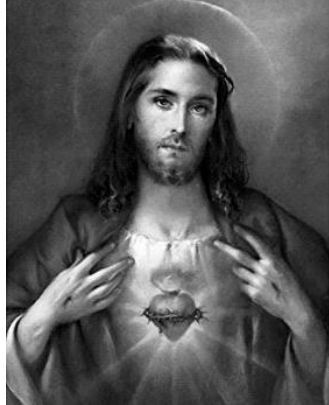
When I think of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I think of the physical wound Jesus incurred while dying on the cross from the centurion's spear. During this month we celebrate Father's Day and I think of my dad. I think of the times I hurt his heart by the things I did and how much those things also hurt Jesus. How important our relationships are with our family members, but even more important is our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Whether or not you had a loving, faithful father, we can all turn to God our father in heaven who loves us simply because we are His children. He is our loving, faithful Father! ***"See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are."*** (1 John 3:1)

In reading about the history of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I learned that not only does the Sacred Heart represent Jesus' woundedness, both the physical and spiritual, but also Jesus' passionate and infinite love for us. **God's love is infinite!**

"In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent His only Son into the world so that we might have life through Him. In this is Love: not that we have Loved God, but that He Loved us and sent His Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so Loved us, we also must Love one another." (1 John 4:9-11)

Pope Frances Prayer Intention: Universal – Social Networks That social networks may work towards the inclusiveness which respects others for their differences.



SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

By
Fr. Richard

An inmate states that he is in prison for life, he is married and feels disconnected from his wife who writes long letters with apologies that are not clear to him, she does not send pictures as he requests, that he still loves her, and wonders what to do?

You say that you still love her, and think you have a right for her to feel the same. If you are united in Holy Matrimony, you were given the gifts of permanence, fidelity, and openness to life. Regardless of how she may feel about you, if you still love her, then continue to do so. No person can command another person to feel the same, so just continue to hold to your vows, to your good memories of her, and affirm your love in your letters to her. Since you have no ongoing in person experiences with her in your marriage, your memories of all that went on in your love for her and your marriage must sustain you. Because she may not respond by letter the way you wish, that does not mean that your marriage is over. I can't make anyone love me, but I can continue to love them, and my love has a degree of power to bring love to another. So, does your love of your wife.

PRO-LIFE

Why am I Pro-Life? - Answer from an inmate...

Science says that upon conception all cells multiply to create a specific perfect fetus, and everything that a fetus needs to live is in those cells. The fetus is alive and from that point it matures.

The Bible says, ***God knew us before we were even in the womb*** (Isaiah 49:1), ***and our lives were already planned, our destiny written in the stars.*** Our lives have already been set by God. How can we mess with that? But we do.

We live for ourselves instead of living for God. I live for God now. I know I am not perfect but my life is not my own. My Child's life is not mine. No matter how the baby was conceived, that baby belongs to God. We are still stuck looking at the trees instead of the forest. I don't know all of what God has planned for me or for my child's life, but God knows.

I am pro-life because I enjoy the life I have and I have no right taking away anybody's chance at life that God has planned for them. Amen. Miss K.L.

WHY ARE YOU PRO LIFE? Write and tell us why and we will consider featuring your answer in our next Newsletter.

RESOURCE

If you would like to start a **Correspondence Course on Anger Management, Parenting, or the 12-Step Program** on Chemical Dependency or Adult Children of Alcoholics - Write to **CREATIVE OPTIONS, at P.O. Box 181409, Coronado, CA 92178.** Let them know which course you would like to participate in and they will send you information as soon as they are able.

New Bibles? We have recently received a few letters questioning the New American bibles we are now sending out and whether it is a Catholic bible. We did switch about 3 months ago from the Good News Bible which had the deuterocanonical books listed separately to the New American Bible which also has the deuterocanonical books but they are integrated into the Bible, not in a separate section. The Catholic Church uses the New American Bible for the Sunday (and weekly) readings as does the Bread of Life Bible Study so it is the best Bible to go with our Bible Study. And so, I assure you this a Catholic Bible.

Need a Spiritual Mentor? A **Mentor** will be one who will discuss any questions regarding your Catholic faith and The Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study. The **mentor**, men to men and women to women, will discuss spiritual matters that come from the bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and teachings of the Catholic Church.

The role of the **spiritual mentor** is to help guide you in your **spiritual growth.** The **spiritual mentor** will NOT be a social worker or a pen pal but one who has been called by Christ to help you in your walk with God. Also, **mentors** are NOT allowed to send money, stamps, envelopes, food, personal items, videos or books outside of our booklist, nor writing to parole officers, etc. We appreciate your compliance in this area.

Seeking Testimonies... We Love to read and share your testimonies. Please write to us and tell us your story, the darkness you've come from and how God is working in your life. **Blessings to you from all of us here at St. Dismas Guild...**