



# St. Dismas Guild

July 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](http://www.stdismasguild.org)



## TESTIMONY

Oh Wow! O mighty God, thank you for having mercy on my soul, bringing me to prayer through the priesthood of Father D. here at this prison.

I have paid a dear price: imprisonment (46 to life) for departing from the Catholic Church, and for not learning my lesson while on the streets. I landed in prison while imprisoned because I could not figure out where I belong. You see, I have a mixed heritage and others look different than me; also, I received my first communion back in the 70s, but wasn't really formed with firm and constant faith. Now at 56 I have begged for God's mercy and guidance. As he moves my heart to sincere love for him, others, enemies, self, I can only now begin the long, long road to perseverance necessary to walk this most noble spiritual goal. Help me Jesus...I cannot do it without you.

I am on the road to recovery from doubt, confusion, worry, anger, hatred, wrath; envy, lust, etc., etc. I was away from the church at least 10 years; it will take at least 10 years to relearn the liturgy and this time properly and with maturity. I committed serious sins; I have confessed; more is coming to memory which I will need to confess. I am grateful that God has allowed these trials to test my faith in order to produce perseverance in me. (Prolife part of the letter will be shared next month.) D.L.G.

*Dear DLG, God uses man to draw you to Himself. It is wonderful you had a priest in prison to draw you to prayer. We are all trying to find out where we belong. There is one place we all belong and that is in the arms of our Father in heaven. We belong to God and have been bought at the price of His Son, Jesus Christ. You could find that on the streets through the love of someone but most people don't know how to love or the biblical meaning of love. Our book "Secrets of a Happy Family" tells you what scripture says love is.*

*You belong to God and you are finding that as you do the bible study and develop your relationship with Jesus and learn to live as He lived and died and rose from the dead. You have a lifetime of now walking with Jesus. Being away from the Church left you vulnerable for Satan to get his hands on you. God is the one who brings to your memory the sins you have committed in the past. His timing is perfect. You're reconciling yourself to God and man is your saving grace. "For God is the one who, for his good purpose, works in you both to desire and to work." Philippians 2:13*

## DOING TIME WITH JESUS

My name is DH and I word like to start off by saying thank you for the newsletters I receive every month. They are a true blessing for me. It's been a little over two years since I started getting them. I look forward to reading them every time.

I've been in and out of jail for eight years now for various petty crimes all involving the use of drugs in one form or another.

I truly believed I had a problem in July 2014 when I was arrested three times in a matter of two weeks for stealing from my family and friends which I can't remember doing or being arrested. My brother found me and told me he had enough money in the bank right now if I chose to get clean he would back me up. That was July, I went to rehab the next day. I was mostly clean for 14 months. In August 2015 I relapsed. I tried to break into my brother's house but chose not to and cracked the door. I was still on the run till September 2015. Two reasons for not going on the run: my girlfriend was three months pregnant with my first child. Being addicted would have put me back in jail and I wouldn't have been there when my daughter was born. After I took off in July 2015 my girl was mad and told me if I didn't turn myself in she was going to have an abortion. I didn't hear from her for over a month, hence the relapse in August.

Long story short I was arrested September 3 less than a week after I relapsed. I received 2 years and 10 months to 8 years for the parole violation and trespassing charges for my brothers door.

I've always believed in God and that He works in mysterious ways. I believe I was caught right after I relapsed because He wanted me to. I might have actually died this time. In November my girl wrote me and told me she decided to have EJ and she was born January 2016. My girl and I plan on getting married when I get home and having some more kids. I never truly believed in if I didn't go to church that God wouldn't be there and now I worship him in my own way. He is definitely a lamp to my feet and a light to my path and your newsletters help me every month to keep my head in check. Thank you again and may God bless you. DH

*Dear DH, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? I Corinthians 6:19. Abusing drugs damages this temple as well as your relationship with others. You wrote that you might have actually died from the drugs but God intervened. He loves you and like a good Father will do everything for your good, including giving you this time in prison to stay clean of drugs and to develop a relationship with Him.*

*Begin by praying and reading the Bible every day. If you haven't already, request a copy of the Bread of Life Bible Study and do the lessons to develop a deeper understanding of God's love and His plans for you "... put away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth." Ephesians 4:22-24*

## FAMILY MINISTRY

**Pope Frances Prayer Intention;** July 2018  
**Evangelization – Priests and their Pastoral Ministry**  
That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.

**The Church's Dedication for July 2018:** The month of July is dedicated to **The Precious Blood of Jesus**. The entire 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. It is used in the offices and Masses of Ordinary Time. The last portion of the liturgical year represents the time of our pilgrimage to heaven during which we hope for reward.



Testimony from a newly released inmate...

Hi, blessings to all of you!!! I was released from prison this month. Thank goodness!!! I am reunited with my wife and kids. I cannot stop thanksgiving!!! I wish to report my testimony (or little miracle): I had to appeal my 75 years sentence and thank goodness, I only served 8 1/2 years.

Now, while my case was before the GA Supreme Court, but about to be bound over to the Feds; well, I had to stay in the "Death Row." (Believe it or not, such a blessing of knowledge and understanding about how the enemy operates!!!)

Anyways, before being released, my classification changed and I was moved to an open Dorm, where I was much more highly blessed with the opportunity to facilitate both: A Rosary Praying Group (small - only 8 people) and, thereafter, a general Christian Praying Group. (Both reported to feel at peace -- Praise God!!!)

Now, that I'm outside, I find myself struggling to have my family stay prayed-up ... Yep, that's a shame for me to report. However, here is my golden opportunity to increase and strengthen my faith, while I know, that it will take lots of patience. Would you pray for me?

You guys have been a true blessing for all of us who know you!!! Please keep up such a good work!!! May God bless you, richly!!! ZV

*Thank you for sharing your good news and witness Z.V. Your letter testifies to the virtue of perseverance, faithfulness and patience. This month the Catholic Church dedicates the month of July to the Precious Blood of Jesus, which was "shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:28). Often times our sins hurt those closest to us, our family members and yet we have a promise from Jesus that He will forgive.*

*Continue to stay strong in your faith by living it every day, the change in you is what your family will see, love and obedience to God's word, this will be the best example for helping your family to come to the Lord.*

***"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16***

*When Mother Teresa received the Nobel Prize, she was asked, "What can we do to promote world peace?" She answered "Go home and love your family."*

*Continue to love your family, everyone must come to Him of their own free will. All we can do is show the world how much we Know, Love and Serve the Lord, the rest is up to the Holy Spirit. We are sending you "Secrets of a Happy Family" to help you in your journey of faith with your family. Blessings...*

***"[The Gospel] responds to our deepest needs, since we were created for what the Gospel offers us: friendship with Jesus and love for our brothers and***

***sisters. If we succeed in expressing adequately and with beauty the essential content of the Gospel, surely this message will speak to the deepest yearning of people's hearts." From (Joy of the Gospel) - Pope Francis***

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

By Fr. Richard

Dear Fr. Rich, How do I address the topic of Karma and Reincarnation when it comes up in discussion?

*Our Christian faith has been handed onto us from the apostles, recorded in the written Bible and the oral Tradition of the Church. Those eyewitnesses of Jesus teach us what the Lord taught them. Jesus, in His human nature died. He rose again in a resurrected body and ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us and to send us the Holy Spirit. His promise at the Last Supper covenant wherein He, God, ate a meal with man and sacrificed Himself to seal the pact, is that when we die, our spirits go to God for judgment to be delivered into heaven or to purgatory should we still have sins clinging to us, or to hell if we chose that path. On the last day when He comes again with all His angels, Jesus will raise up our mortal bodies and make them like His own resurrected body so that we can pass with Him through the veil to live forever in heaven for all eternity.*

*Karma, what might be described as "what goes around comes around" and reincarnation, the soul occupying some new body for another life on earth after death, come from other men's thoughts, but not from Jesus, the Son of God who knows heaven because He came down from Heaven, returned there, and will return to take us there.*

***"Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him." Hebrews 9:27-28***

## PRO-LIFE

**Why am I Pro-Life?** Brethren of St. Dismas Guild, Sorry for being so long in sharing my appreciation for your newsletters and the materials you share. Why am I Pro-Life?

First - - We are created in the image and likeness of God Himself, and most important, from Adam's gift of breath – life. God infused us with a part of Himself that we have "Life" in each and every conceived person – That is God's gift, we have no place or right to destroy that gift of God.

Second - - I am sad to admit, I paid for my girlfriend's abortion and have murder on my list of sins to ask for Jesus' forgiveness – not to mention the loss of a precious God-given gift!

Thank you again. May God continue to richly bless you in all things. I pray for you and your special ministry. R.P.

## REQUESTS

**Why are you Pro-Life?** Write and tell us why and we will consider featuring your answer in our next Newsletter.

**Seeking Testimonies...** Please write to us and tell us your story, Format your testimony like this - 1/3 Child/teenage years, 1/3 How did Christ change your life? and 1/3 How is God working in your life now? Please limit it to 500 words. Thank you...

**Blessings from all of us at St. Dismas Guild...**