



St. Dismas Guild

August 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

Dear St. Dismas Guild, Greetings! Hope y'all are doing fine. I am well, taking things one day at a time. Father's day is not a good day for me. I'm estranged from both of my daughters, one being my victim. No telling when we will communicate again, if ever. My psychiatrist has told me it may happen if I live long enough. I pray that one day this may take place Until then, all I can do is pray.

The main reason I am writing is that my rosary broke. Would you please send me a new one? The old one is enclosed. I am still using my "Bread of Life" bible study to help me grow. I got a little lost with the feast of the Ascension and the Body and Blood of Christ, and Pentecost and Trinity Sundays, but now that we are back in ordinary time I am back on track. Thanks for your continued thoughts and prayers. You all remain in mine. Love, peace and love to you as I remain...prayerfully yours. R.E.

Dear R.E., ***"For man it is impossible; but for God all things are possible."*** **Matthew 19:26** *Taking one day at a time knowing God is at your side what looks impossible is possible. As you keep your eyes on Jesus He will heal you and in turn heal your relationship with your daughters. Continue to do the bible study and pray the rosary asking the virgin Mary to talk to her Son Jesus. Mary is telling you to do whatever Her Son tells you. If you do not have a Catechism of the Catholic Church let us know and we will send it to you. When reading the bible and doing the study you need to always remember that the Holy Spirit is your Teacher as John 14:26 says, and the Holy Spirit guides us through the teaching authority of the Church. The Bible, Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study and the Catechism of the Catholic Church will guide you and teach you how to live a productive life and one day you will bear fruit, fruit that will last. Our prayers are with you.*

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear Saint Dismas Guild, I've been debating how I should tell you the following things for my love of the Lord and his goodness compels me that I should send you my testimony. I have known the Lord longer than I dare put a number to least you think me insane. In fact, my relationship with Christ (although I call my one chance) is the second friendship I ever made with anyone. I have never trusted in any human, for they always fail, but the Lord I have always trusted, I cannot say I believe, because I believe in things I don't know, In Christ one chance I know.

The day I was arrested Christ said to me that if I had fought he'd have fought with me, if I'd have run he'd have run with me; but I chose to suffer and so he would suffer with me. Since then I've seen humanity which I've always known hates me, even before I gave them just cause to hate me, play nice

around me, which I know to be because the Lord weights on their hearts causing them to soften towards me.

I shall be home by the end of the year and was happy to learn that being a priest would have entailed all manner of thing I want to do with my life any way and I thought ...about not allowing marriage, then I learned deacons could do both. Sadly, Pope Francis said things that implied I could not be allowed to work in the church and my local priest confirmed that the concupiscence of my crime and recent scandals would make it impossible, but don't need a letter, it is enough for me, the promise which Christ's one chance did guide me. Sincerely, P.C.

You are right P.C., it is the Love of the Lord and His goodness that is compelling you right now to write your testimony. He puts any desire in your heart to do good. You are right in putting your trust in God and not in humanity. Human beings fall short of the glory of God. The suffering we go through is dying to ourselves for the good of another just as Jesus did when he went to the cross.

To see humanity as always hating you is to see sinful man hating one another. Man hates one another for the evil they inflict on one another but God's love for you never stops. He is Faithful and Loves you with an everlasting Love. God put that desire to want to be a priest in you but He has already made you a Priest, Prophet and King by way of your Baptism. We just have to believe that! It takes a lifetime for us to be convinced of that and act as a Priest by sacrificing our lives for the good of another, a Prophet by speaking God's Word not our own and King by letting love for one another rule your life and serving those around you.

*Get into the Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study and develop your relationship with Jesus on a daily basis. As you suffer and struggle in this life getting rid of that sinful nature and put on the mind of Christ you will find joy and peace and contentment here and now. Praying for you PC. Persevere and thank you in sending your testimony. **"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."** Proverb 3:5-6*

*Never be ashamed of your testimony (2 Timothy 1:8) Trust no man, put your trust in God, God loves you from the beginning, **"Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"** 1 Corinthians 3:16 , Romans 7:5 states; **"For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death."** Show love for God.*

FAMILY MINISTRY

Pope Frances Prayer Intention: Universal - The Treasure of Families - That any far-reaching decisions of economists and politicians may protect the Family as one of the treasures of humanity.

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

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The Church's Dedication for August 2018: The month of August is dedicated to **The Immaculate Heart of Mary**. 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.



Letter from an inmate: Thank you for listening, I greatly appreciate your newsletter each month, they give us inmates inspiration and just to know someone does listen to us. Yes, we have made a mistake to get ourselves incarcerated but we are still human, God wants us sinners because we turn to Him for forgiveness. Just as in **John 8:7** says, "**Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw stones**", No stones were thrown... I have been down since 2015 and just seeing parole and I was denied and given a year hit.

I'm married to my high school sweetheart 21 years, but the last two years she has stopped writing and answering my phone calls. We have three beautiful children. Our marriage and our children were all done in love and in the eyes of our beloved God. I know she's lonely and is missing her husband, about three months ago she sent me the dreaded divorce papers with no reason at all. My life suddenly felt useless. I know I still have my children to look forward to and would never do anything to jeopardize or hurt them, I just don't understand why she would give up on us after 21 years.

I know she deserves more than I can give her now and more than I ever gave her, but I never did her wrong and both her and our Lord know that. With all that, I started to question God and felt like I wanted to stop praying, stop attending catechism and stop reading the Bible, but I didn't, not totally. Prison makes it so easy to give up on everything but my Christian brothers both Catholic and protestant would not let me give up and fall. God bless them!!! I believe the Holy Spirit was at work in their hearts and in mine.

I don't want this divorce, she's the love of my life. Can you please send me something to help me in my time of trial, any literature on marriage and if possible the Bread of Life Bible study to go with it? We've always been good practicing Catholics and tried to live our lives right. Thank you for listening and I ask for your prayers for our marriage. God bless you and may God always light and make straight your paths, J.B.

Dear J.B., Yes, you are correct, our God is a loving, forgiving God. When we stray, we turn away from God. Jesus teaches us that we can turn away from sin and repent. When we repent, we will be welcomed home as was the Prodigal Son. Jesus understands that we are human and only He understands the depths of our anger, pain and loneliness. St. Paul writes about his loneliness to St. Timothy, "At my first defense no one appeared on my behalf, but everyone deserted me... But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength." (2 Tim. 4:16-17)

What you are feeling must be very difficult, especially the separation from your family. It is so hard to be away

from those we love. Continue to turn to Jesus and do the will of His father. You are in our prayers. "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do." (Col. 3:12-13)

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

By Fr. Richard Perozich

What scriptures can prisoners memorize that will help us serve our time and stay out of trouble?

When Jesus became man He surrendered the power of His divinity, but retained the essence of his godliness, uniting it to His humanity. As He grew in human awareness, He always knew who He was, the eternal Son of the eternal Father. This understanding grew as His humanity matured. He always communicated with His Father, was about the Father's business, and did the Father's will.

*In baptism a person's humanity is united with God's divinity. The person becomes a child of the Father, brother or sister of Jesus Christ, temple of the Holy Spirit. Many times, each day each person needs to remind themselves in prayer that, I AM A NEW PERSON IN GOD, just as Jesus always knew it. The baptized person is foreknown to be a part of God's family, predestined to bear the image of Jesus, called to New Life in God's Family, Justified — Freed from sin— and Glorified, that is showered with the grace of the Holy Spirit for the purpose of Proclaiming Jesus in word and deed. **Romans 8 reminds a person of this, particularly Romans 8:28-31. Ephesians 1 echoes this. 1 Corinthians 15:33, Do not be led astray: "Bad company corrupts good morals." 1 Corinthians 6:15-20, "united to the Spirit of the Lord and temples of the Holy Spirit." 1 Peter 2:9, "called out of darkness into the light, a chosen nation, a royal priesthood, a holy people called to proclaim the marvelous works of Jesus."***

PRO-LIFE

Letter from an inmate: I am **Pro-LIFE** now; but before reading the **Pro-LIFE** article (in the March Newsletter) I had not realized how careless, selfish, and reckless I HAD been. Yes, "God is **Pro-LIFE**." He gives LIFE even to those who deny others (the living unborn) the blessing to live a LIFE of freedom. Just for the sake of your LIFE ...Would you have had this opportunity if your parents had decided to kill you?

Without **Pro-LIFE**, those against it would not have had a voice to oppose such wonder from Jesus. And when this absolute truth is combined with **Pro-LIFE** ...

I am **Pro-LIFE** for the terminally ill because the Love of Christ must move us to compassionate care of them. Thank You for the newsletters...Wonderful! DLG

Yes, DLG being Pro- LIFE encompasses all aspects of LIFE; from conception to natural death, the Unborn to the Elderly, caring for those with Disabilities, those Chronically ill, and includes supporting those women who find themselves in unplanned pregnancies, Adoption options, helping those who are victims of slavery or sex-trafficking, refugees, and immigrants, the poor and the homeless. Thank you for sharing your Pro-LIFE stance and keep sharing it with others.

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