



# St. Dismas Guild

Oct. 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)



Last month we were able to send, free of charge, 192 packages at a cost ranging from \$3- \$25 per package and 4,310 Newsletters at a cost of \$1,400. With your continued prayers and financial help, we hope to increase our mailing each month. We thank you and appreciate your generosity.

## TESTIMONY

St. Dismas Guild, Greetings in the name and spirit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! My name is M.S. and this is my **testimony**:

Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd is faithful. ...Growing up, all I knew about God was that He painted the sunset every night, and my mom promised it was just for me. We only attended church if something horrible happened, and I never knew the gospel. I was often left alone, neglected, and depressed. I moved often, and had no friends, no stability and felt tormented by hopelessness. I endured a variety of abuse, and was sexually abused at age 11, 12, and 16. My mom suffered from a terminal illness of which I had a 50% chance of inheritance. I cannot understand why God would allow all the suffering and decided not to believe He made the sunset. From ages 11 to 15, I cut myself from head to toe. From 15 to 20, I suffered from drug addiction and was lost in my sin. Though saved at 14, the gospel seeds were uprooted by the enemy Matthew 13:6 and I spent years of wandering and hopeless to spare, convinced I would rather suffer and die like my mother and afraid to live and desperate to die.

I became convinced of God's absolute power when I was charged with intoxication manslaughter at age 20. I still did not want to live, and desperately wanted to trade places with my victim, I was finally convinced that God was real. I fully surrendered to Him in that moment, and while on bond, I experienced His love on a daily basis. The seeds of the word were planted, took route, and are now bearing fruit. I struggle every single day, but realize that my suffering is shared by Christ, and therefore I rejoice. I was once a child of the devil, but today I am a child of God. God reveals His purpose for me daily and has humbled and blessed me. I was tested for my mother's disease and tested negative. My only sister tested positive. We have a unique opportunity to share our sufferings with Christ, and glorify God, and today I am not afraid, nor am I hopeless. I'm very weak, but I have a Father who never fails me, and always strengthens me.

My grandmother was a faithful Catholic, but I was not raised in the church. At her funeral mass, one month before I was incarcerated, I experienced the truth for the first time, and was called to the church. Once incarcerated, God sent His laborers, who were always Catholic, to guide me and I received confirmation and communion on January 10, 2018. Experience Mass weekly and go to reconciliation as much as possible. I am constantly amazed by the power of God in my life and in the lives of those around me. I am obsessed with His love I'm desperate to share it. I'm thankful to the blessed virgin mother for her constant intercession. Amen. May God bless your ministry always and may your service bear fruit. Thank you for calling us to the harvest and sharing the love of Jesus Christ with all of us. Surely, we will all be together in paradise. Thank you

so very much. Sincerely yours and unity with the Holy Spirit, M.S.

*Dear M.S., It always amazes me how God is so perfect in His timing as to when we are able to hear His voice. We have such an awesome God. Thank you so much for sharing such a powerful testimony. We sent you our book on “Overcoming Sexual Abuse”. When Jesus showed Thomas His hands after He resurrected from the dead He still had the wounds from what He suffered as you too carry the wounds of your sexual abuse but His promise to heal the brokenhearted has come true in you.*

*As you said, Jesus goes out after His lost sheep. He found you and is now guiding you. **For He is our God, and we are the people He shepherds, the flock He guides. Psalm 95:7 and Psalm 147***

*Jesus is saying about you to all the angels and saints, **“Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.” John 15:16 “You did not choose Me, but I Chose You, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.”***

*You are already fulfilling this scripture by the fruit that will come from your giving us your testimony to share. May God continue to bless you abundantly.*

## DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St. Dismas Guild, I write to you in response to the newsletter sent to me. I wish to give my testimony and ask you to please send me a bible.

The **testimony** I'd like to give starts at the age of seven. My teacher was with me in regular school and bible school. My aunt encouraged me to open up and let Jesus in my heart. I was young then and some things I let Jesus lead me in and others were my friends and back sliding cost me. Then I gave all of me to God and my life changed. Having someone to put Faith and Trust in gave me Joy and Happiness.

Those I fellowshiped with shared with me what God had done for them and I was blessed to witness God's Grace. I came to Love the Lord with all my Heart, Mind and Soul. Letting God in, being filled with His Spirit, I've learned to Love life and everything. Right now, I'm hungry for His Word of Hope, so please send me (Bless me) with a good Bible. One I'd want to keep reading of God's goodness and my purpose in life. That is to please God. I pray to serve the Lord for which I was created and make good use of the talent He gives me. God's witness, I.C.

*Thank you I.C. for sharing with us your Joy and Happiness in turning to God and letting Him into your heart. Yes, so many of us have this beautiful story and what a blessing it is to find it and give glory to God. We have updated your address and are sending you a new Bible. Know that we pray over all the materials that go out weekly, for each person who will receive them and*

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

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each person that they come in contact with. Blessings to you...

## FAMILY MINISTRY

### Pope Frances Prayer Intention for October:

#### Evangelization – The Mission of Religious -

That consecrated religious men and women may bestir themselves, and be present among the poor, the marginalized, and those who have no voice.

On the **Liturgical Calendar for the Church** the month of **October** is dedicated to Mary and the Holy Rosary...



**Letter from an inmate:** Dear St. Dismas Guild, Howdy (from Texas)!!! Thank you all for writing back. I am writing from ...County jail, 210 days I've been incarcerated sentenced to 6 months and 10 yrs. probation for DUI. Thank God I get some treatment. I suffered much abuse as a child and an adult.

I have 3 beautiful amazing daughters that have made it through college and have made it through my life. My heart is heavy at this time. My oldest daughter will be getting married to her college sweetheart and I won't be able to attend due to my incarceration, and this isn't the first time. I was unable to attend her amazing graduation. Each one of them kept themselves straight and have earned everything they have achieved in life with all the odds against them. They stayed sober vigilant, faithful & drug-free. Serving the Lord which took a lot of work in this day and age and all they had been through. They could of used any excuse, and had the right, but they bravely persevered.

Myself overcoming my childhood divorce waking up being stuck in the past. My heart is healing. Please pray for my daughter's wedding, their futures, their protection to their children and children's children. There is still the predator on the prowl. Due to my self-medication and not to expose them to my parents, where I still have to ask my Heavenly Father to help me Honor him by Honoring my Mother and Father, my mother (abuser) is still cheating, stealing, and is not the least bit sorry and actually will still make jabs about what she put me through. I also have a brother, him being a male, even harder for him to process. Oh, and my Mother walks around "Bigtime" New cars, diamonds, helping church, food bank, and still a wolf in sheep's clothing.

And Lord forgive me – **I bear my heart for help & prayer, healing, restoration, and protection.** I know I've always been in God's hands and I ask for the same of my daughters. They were raised Catholic, they pray and pine for me. May God keep His hand on my future journey and our lives belonging to Him. I give Him the praise & glory for His hand that has led us safe thus far. Bless my daughter on her wedding dear Lord. Also, the money my mother stole and all the time she took from our family and abuses, may it be given back. And protection of my children & my children's children and help me on my journey – 49 years old, sold out, living to love & loving to live – Amen. Thank you, R.R.

Dear R.R., what you are feeling must be so very difficult, the pain from abuse and divorce, not to mention

being separated from those you love and missing the major, joy-filled moments in your children's lives. Continue to turn to Jesus. **"He Himself bore our sins in His body upon the cross, so that free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed."**(1 Peter 2:24)

Yes, you are correct; the evil one is on the prowl. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil. **"Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from His mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil."**(Ephesians 6:6:10-11)

We pray for your continued healing and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ. **"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin."** (St. Teresa of Calcutta)

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

By Fr. Richard

**"Overcoming Compulsive Behavior"** - Book Review by Father Rich... (Find this book and many others on our List of Books.)

"God's Word is the most powerful being in force in the universe, His son Jesus Christ. His teachings in the Holy Bible bring that for us to our minds, and when we are ready to ACCEPT it, He penetrates our being to transform darkness into Light, death into Life, fear into Love, compulsion to Freedom.

Human nature wounded by original sin is subject to the temptation, seduction, deception, lies, and accusations of the devil to rob us of our dignity of being created in the image and likeness of God: humble, meek, generous, sharing, prayerful, temperate, and chaste through the vices of pride, hate, greed, envy, laziness, gluttony, and lust.

In this book Marie Finn gives examples of the weakness of human nature, and how the Word of God restores those who believe in Him. Each biblical citation is Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life speaking to our hearts to lead us from the detour, the lie, and from death. Each testimony of a fallen and now raised up believer shows the power of God and the Word in our lives.

The book is not a theoretical teaching from those immune to suffering, but a life experience of God's beloved children who have been rescued by God through faith in the Word, the Word that has the power to change lives."

## PRO-LIFE

**REMEMBER to Fast and Pray for LIFE Issues...**

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE: Sept. 26 – Nov. 4.** Speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves.

**"The greatest work in the Church today is the Cause for Life." Pope John Paul II**

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

Please remember to pray for all the inmates who write to us and share their Testimonies and Pro-Life stories.

St Dismas and Deacon Ken, please pray for us...

Blessings from all St. Dismas Guild volunteers and patrons.