



St. Dismas Guild

Nov. 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



Last month we were able to send, free of charge, 142 packages, 64 to New inmates and 13 to Spanish inmates and we also sent out 4,163 Newsletters. With your continued prayers and financial help, we hope to increase our mailing each month. We thank you and appreciate your generosity.

TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, Thank you so much for your monthly newsletter. Reading these testimonies and your responses have been a real treat and lets me know how small my troubles are compared to some. I grew up in church, just not as a Catholic, but never really, what would you say? "got it." I mean I knew that God sent His son Jesus Christ so that we could be saved, but I never really understood God's Word and his message or my purpose with it all.

They say everything happens for a reason and in my heart, I believe that. In 2014 I was baptized and confirmed as a Catholic and since then it has been a truly amazing journey. I mean, the feeling I had that day was indescribable and each time I have the chance to attend Mass and partake of the Eucharist, it is truly incredible. As we take the Bread of Life into our bodies how can any evil withstand such glorious power? Now, we are all human and the flesh is weak, so we will all fall, but for that few minutes how wonderful a feeling. The more I read God's Word and learn about the Catholic faith the more I'm convinced I am on the right path. God's Word tells us that the Holy Spirit will teach each of us, and I truly believe that because of the clarity I get as I study.

I want to thank you for allowing me to receive your newsletter each month: truly a blessing. I've been down for seven years with about that many to go. Both my parents have passed since I've been down, and the rest of my family are pretty mad that I got locked up again, so I haven't heard from them except, of course, my brother. And I thank God for him. I don't know where I would be without him. I'm not sure what's going to happen when I get out. Where will I end up calling home, working etc., but God tells us not to worry about tomorrow. What we'll wear, what we'll eat. Just as He dresses the flowers of the field and feeds the birds of the air...how much more are we to him. But I still can't help to wonder. I guess I still have a long way to go with the faith part, huh?

I would like to ask you to pray for me, that my relationship with my daughter would be healed (if it be God's will) and that I find the peace and joy that my heart so longs to find. Could you also send me a Catechism of the Catholic church? I've been trying to get one but haven't so far. I would like to learn all I can about the incredible faith that God has so graciously allowed me to be a part of. Thank you so much and May God Bless! Sincerely, W.B.

WB, thank you for sharing with us your powerful conversion and how God is moving in your life. Your right in saying how can any evil withstand such glorious power. 1 John 4:4 says, "You belong to God children and you have conquered them for the One who is in you is greater than he that is in the world." No evil can touch you unless you let it by sinning. Satan is prowling around like a roaring lion seeing who he can devour especially in prison. Thank God we have Jesus for He

takes all our sins upon the cross. We all have a long way to go with the faith part. Faith comes through hearing and what is heard is the Word of God. Study it daily. You have a lot of excitement about your faith and coming to Jesus four years ago. We are praying for you and your daughter. We sent you a CCC and another List of books. God bless you.

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Hello, I am in prison on a 24-year sentence and I will do a few more years on it before I can even go up to parole. I was saved a few years back and fell from grace and landed in here. But I have rededicated myself back to the Lord Jesus Christ, My Lord and Savior.

I would enjoy having a Bible to study and a Rosary, and any other kind of devotionals and studies or literature that you may have available to send me. It would truly be appreciated. I thank God for people like you who take time out of their lives to help people like me. Thank you and God Bless. But please send me anything that can help me further myself in Christ my Lord. Thank you all and Bless all. Your friend in Our Lord Jesus, J.C.

J.C., we sent you the bible requested along with The Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study and a small catechism. We will pray you build your relationship with Jesus through the Word. "Your opponent the devil is prowling like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Resist him..." 1 Peter 5:8-9 You resist him by following in the footsteps of Jesus. Other ways of resisting Satan besides scripture is Prayer, the Rosary, and Praise and Worship are all powerful weapons also. Unfortunately, we are no longer sending out Rosaries because most of them come back to us and we must pay for them to be sent and then again to be sent back to us. Thank you for the encouraging words about St. Dismas Guild.

FAMILY MINISTRY

The Church's Dedication for November 2018: The month of November is dedicated to the **Souls in Purgatory**, whose feast is celebrated on November 2, All Souls Day.

Pope Francis Prayer Intention: Universal – In Service of Peace: That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.

I am 42 years old and have seven sisters and brothers total. I always got bibles for my birthday and Christian days all throughout my childhood, but never went to church all the time until I was 15. I was baptized when I was 16 and was baptized because my dad and stepmom made me. Then I came to prison when I was 28 years old and started going to church. Then my sister passed away in 2005 and a friend asked me if he could offer up my

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

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sister in a Mass, and I said yes. That yes changed my life for the good. About a week later he asked me to go to Mass with him and I said yes, so I was on the all-outs for Mass.

A year later I became a Catholic and now I have joy, am happy, and care about others. An officer who is a Catholic and I talked for a long time and he gave me the name of a monastery with an oblate program for prisoners. The Order of St. Benedict of the Third. **“Renounce yourself in order to follow Christ.” Matt. 16:24.**

Back in 2012 God blessed me in a new job in prison working in religious services, and I’m still working there today. If you think about prison, it is a monastery for me following the Rule of St. Benedict. Thank you for your time and May God bless you. T.B.

*Dear T.B., How wonderful that you said yes to your friend when asked about having a mass offered for your departed sister. How hard it must have been to be away from your family during this difficult time of loss. We are all called to pray for one another. **“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful.” (James 5:16)***

Even when we least expect it, God can work miracles in our lives if we let Him. Your yes, your being open, allowed God to work in you. We pray that God will continue to work through you so that your witness to follow Christ will inspire others to do the same. Finding peace with God’s plan for our lives is difficult, but once we find peace in His plan we can pray and do His work, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

“I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2)

Thank you so much for sharing your story and we pray that God will continue to bless you.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

By Fr. Richard Perozich

Letter from an inmate - I have been having an issue that has been bothering me to the point it sickens me to think about it and I’m almost sure I’m not the only one that feels this way...

...For years the Church has been covering up and helping those to continue molesting children by moving child molesters around. These became such a problem that anyone that wanted to prey on children only needed to join the Church and become a priest. The Bible speaks of forgiveness of sin. God changed the heart of killers, whores, thefts, etc. through our Lord Jesus Christ. Should the Church help hide those who are preying on children? I believe they should Not be able to hold any leadership role in the Church, they should be kicked out of the Church all together, but I am not Christ and not their Judge! Changes need to be made, that’s all there is to it!

I am a sinner and through the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ am I saved! I’m still having a hard time understanding how the Church let this go on for so long. Could you Please comment on the issue? Thank you and God Bless. Respectfully, C.B.P.

“Just a prisoner and sinner who Christ gives Hope and Love to...”

In the church there is No Excusing those who have sex with children, sex outside of Holy Matrimony, or sex with a member of one’s own sex. Many who have these

temptations, approve of them, or fail to condemn them are now in power and are promoting one another. Jesus come and save us from them.

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“What do we say to our relatives who are confronting us on the scandal in the Church? “

Our Savior told us that there would always be scandal in the church, and we are seeing it now because high ranking members of the church who should be committed to the Bible and Catholic Tradition are living, teaching, and encouraging worldly ways that are not consistent with the gospel. Nonetheless, the church remains holy because she is the bride of Christ, and in her are the Word, the Sacraments, and the Truth even if her leaders do not preach it.

In most ages we can follow our leaders when they are Faithful to Jesus and the last 2000 years of Church Tradition. When they are not, as it appears in this age, we stay with our mother the church, the bride of Christ, and go directly to Jesus in the Bible and Tradition for Truth, yet we must receive the Sacraments from men who might be unfaithful, but the Grace from the Sacraments remains full for us who believe in Jesus.

PRO-LIFE

From an inmate... Why I’m **Pro-Life**. From the moment of conception, a human being is being formed to be birthed a baby to grow up to become an adult. I believe that if the fetus is not a person then there would be no attachment from the mother emotionally. The mothers of aborted children always carry emotional baggage and a sorrow in their hearts. So, with this knowledge of scientific evidence, I am and will always be **Pro-Life. Abortion is legalized murder!** May God Bless and Mary keep all of you! Sincerely G.P.

*Thank you G.P. for your contribution to the **Pro-Life** message. It is true, as a post abortive woman, I do still carry a lot of emotional baggage around even after 41 years. At 17 I was only doing what everyone told me to do. It didn’t seem right, but it was legal, and I was young and naive. I even choose to do it again a few years later for the very same reasons, but it was a lot harder that time. If that wasn’t my conscious trying to tell me, **“THIS IS NOT RIGHT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?”** then I don’t know what it was, but I didn’t listen, and God certainly wasn’t allowed in my Life at that time. Thanks be to God He never gave up on me and I was baptized and confirmed into the Catholic Church at age 28.*

TRADITION

“Is Halloween an evil holiday?” “Nope! The word itself means “All Hallows’ Eve” (“hallow” is an old-fashioned word for Holy) because it’s the night before the feast of All Saints. There’s a lot of research that’s been done on the origin of this holiday, but I’ll save you the long version and just tell you: it was always *our* Holiday/HOLYDAY.” From lifeteen.com

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ROSARIES – Unfortunately, we have decided to Stop sending them. Chaplains are welcome to Bulk order from us.

BIBLE STUDY WORKBOOKS – It’s time to switch to a new Cycle, Dec. 2nd is the 1st Sun. of Advent and we will begin Cycle C. Unfortunately, they are on back order and we may not have them until mid-November. Please be patient with us and we will get them to you ASAP.

Let us pray... May the Souls of the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in Peace, amen. Love and blessings, St. Dismas Guild staff/volunteers/patrons