



St. Dismas Guild

Jan. 2019

“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

This Year we Hope/Pray to send 2,000 Packages and 50,000 Newsletters, Free of Charge,
because of your prayers and generous support.

Please help us continue to spread God’s message of Mercy and Love!



TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, Thank you for writing to me. I’ve been a Catholic all my life. We used to walk about 20 blocks to the Catholic Church with my grandma. Bless her, she is now in Heaven. Before I started, I didn’t know how to defend my Catholic belief. Thanks to Catholic Home Study now y’all gave me the opportunity to grow in my Catholic faith.

I remember, back in the day, I used to get diplomas, certificates, etc., etc., but only to send them to the parole board, not for me to grow my faith. Now I take my Catholic faith and I don’t send them to the parole board. God knows when it is time to go home. Some other religions judge us. First and foremost, the Bible tells you not to judge others. They are in the wrong doing that. All the questions they talk about us, such as, why we worship Saints. We don’t worship Saints, they just help us pray to God. Thanks to the Bible Study courses I can defend our Catholic beliefs.

I’ve been in Agg-Seg for three years now. So, I stay 24 hours inside a cell, don’t go to church. Out of 24 hours I only get two hours of recreation once a week. They are short on Catholic literature. Everything comes to me: chow, commissary. I’ll soon be leaving state prison going to the federal prison by next year. But I will keep your address, so I can write to y’all. And pray for me to still keep my knowledge whenever I get out.

Most of the inmates’ praise God for some years, until God gives them freedom. I’ve been in the unit where they get released to the world and there are about three full barrels of Bibles in the last exit. Pray for me to get a fair sentencing in the feds and mostly to not forget my religion once I’m out in the world. My love and respect for writing to us and believing in us. Thank you. God Bless you. I.C.

*Dear I.C., It’s good to hear that you are putting the materials we send to good use. Knowledge of Scripture and the Catholic Faith is good but unless you put it into practice it is of no value to your soul. Continue to use your time in Agg-Seg to develop a relationship with Jesus. Speak to Him as you would to your best friend. Ask Him to show you how you can be a better person from what you read in the Bible and Bible Study. If you begin to do this daily, you will be prepared for what you will experience in the world. **“My son, do not forget my teaching, take to heart my commands; for many days and years of life and peace, will they bring you.” Proverbs 3:1-2***

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear Friends at St. Dismas, Greetings... I have been enlightened with your spiritual nourishment; The Bread of Life Bible Study.

You brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus have brought Joy to my heart during these days behind bars. I share this study with friends. I also send studies to my dad on the Indian Reservation. I’m sure he shares the studies

with the rest of the family. God Bless You All and Thank you very much. Peace be with you. Your brother in Christ Jesus, G.M.M.

Dear G.M.M., *it is so good you have been enlightened with the Bread of Life Study. That’s great you are sharing the study with your family. We will be happy to send any of your family members the study. Just have them write us. Yes, we have updated the index and can send you that. You can use the same book. Follow along with the Sunday readings doing the lesson over again along with your family members that are doing it on the outside. Those who pray together stay together. Write your answers on a separate piece of paper if you can, if not read the question and answer it.*

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Dear St. Dismas Guild, My name is D.M. and I am 19 years old. I have been away from the faith for quite some time. I have been building my relationship with God, but sometimes (a lot of times) I slip and fall. I’m currently incarcerated and we only receive Mass every two week.

As a child my family was Catholic and attended St. Francis Catholic Church. I wasn’t always taught correctly but I am getting myself together. I was given your name by a big brother of ours to write and seek your help. I am asking you to please send me a Rosary and maybe some advice. If you can do so it would be a blessing to me. Thank you. Your brother, D. M

*Dear D.M., As a child, you attended Mass and were given the basics of the faith. That’s a good start. As an adult, learn more about God using the Bible and Bible Study. This will bring meaning and purpose to your life. You mentioned a ‘big brother’ who gave you our address. Continue to develop friendships with people like him who are also looking to change their lives. Together you will learn to make better choices. Study and Pray together. As Scripture says **“...if 2 of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where 2 or 3 are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:19-20** We also have faith-based mentors if you’d like to have one let us know.*

RESOURCE

ROSARIES - Unfortunately, we are no longer sending rosaries to inmates unless they have an official form from their prison facility. Chaplains are welcome to Bulk order from us, send us an email or letter with the number of rosaries they would like to receive.

SEEKING TESTIMONIES - Please write to us and tell us your story. Please format your testimony in this way - 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...

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCH'S DEDICATION FOR JANUARY 2019: The month of January is dedicated to the **Holy Name of Jesus**, which is celebrated on January 3. The first eight days of January fall during the liturgical season known as **Christmas** which is represented by the liturgical color white. The remaining days of January are the beginning of **Ordinary Time**. The liturgical color changes to green — a symbol of the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven.

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION: That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

By Fr. Richard Perozich

Do I have a purposeful plan to grow closer to Christ this coming year? Am I fully prepared to meet God face to face?

From a sermon by St. Bernard, abbot 11th century – God's Word will come to us...

We know that there are three comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible, while the other two are visible. In the first coming He was seen on earth, dwelling among men; He himself testifies that they saw Him and hated Him. In the final coming ***all flesh will see the salvation of our God, and they will look on Him whom they pierced.*** The intermediate coming is a hidden one; in it only the elect see the Lord within their own selves, and they are saved. In His first coming our Lord came in our flesh and in our weakness; in this middle coming He comes in spirit and in power; in the final coming He will be seen in glory and majesty.

In case someone should think that what we say about this middle coming is sheer invention, listen to what our Lord himself says: ***If anyone loves me, he will keep my Word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.*** There is another passage of Scripture which reads: ***He who fears God will do good,*** but something further has been said about the one who loves, that is, that he will keep God's Word. Where is God's Word to be kept? Obviously in the heart, as the prophet says: ***I have hidden your Words in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.***

Keep God's Word in this way. Let it enter into your very being, let it take possession of your desires and your whole way of life. Feed on goodness, and your soul will delight in its richness. Remember to eat your bread, or your heart will wither away. Fill your soul with richness and strength.

Because this coming lies between the other two, it is like a road on which we travel from the first coming to the last. In the first, Christ was our redemption; in the last, He will appear as our life; in this middle coming, He is our rest and consolation.

If you keep the Word of God in this way, it will also keep you. The Son with the Father will come to you. The great Prophet who will build the New Jerusalem will come, the one who makes all things new. This coming will fulfill what is written: ***As we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, we shall also bear the***

likeness of the heavenly man. Just as Adam's sin spread through all mankind and took hold of all, so Christ, who created and redeemed all, will glorify all, once He takes possession of all.

FAMILY MINISTRY

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."***

Questions for reflection from "Secrets of a Happy Family" by Deacon Ken and Marie Finn (on our list of books).

- How am I experiencing God's love in my life?
- How are my relationships with those close to me separating me from God?
- How do I need to repent in order to experience in a Deep Personal Way, God's love for me?

Romans 5:8 "God proves His love for us; that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Application of Lesson - Chapter 1 -

Watch for areas where you can die to yourself by not doing what you want and meeting your own needs, but instead meeting the needs of another person, such as your spouse or the person closest to you.

Let us pray: Father, I am a sinner. I'm sorry for all those I've hurt. Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross and forgiving me. I commit my life to You. I desire from this day forth to do Your will. Amen.

PRO-LIFE

Sins of Omission - There is one sin that most people rarely or never think about and that is the sin of omission.

Today (unlike in January 1973 when abortion was legalized) even most pro-abortionists have to admit that abortion takes a human life. Yet, the silence of many Christians is deafening because they prefer their comfort zones and/or conveniently dismiss abortion as "a political issue" instead of fulfilling our call to serve God.

But the staggering numbers speak for themselves. Sixty million surgical abortions that we know of, and countless more millions of innocents of whom we are unaware.

This holocaust is happening in our own back yard, sometimes a few blocks away from our churches and schools. We CANNOT plead ignorance. Tragically, ***"Judgment begins in the house of God"*** for our apathy, indifference and silence. ***1 Peter 4:17***

No doubt many of us have made resolutions for the current year. Instead of resolutions to exercise, get organized, make more money and other earthly resolutions, let us not remain silent about our nation's most important and vital human rights issue. **Indeed, the best resolution would be to listen and obey God's call to serve the least of our brothers and sisters in the womb. This truly has Eternal Consequences.**



**New Year's Blessings, from all of us at
St. Dismas Guild**

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