



St. Dismas Guild

May 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

Last Month we sent 123 Packages, (66 New inmate requests) and 4,112 Newsletters,

Free of Charge, because of your prayers and generous support.

Thank you for helping us continue to spread God’s message of Mercy and Love!



TESTIMONY

Dear St. Dismas Guild, I am currently in jail awaiting a court date on an evading arrest charge. My name is to be known by those who honestly seek the kingdom of God. I am from a small town in my state. I am honored to share my past experience that led me to captivity since my childhood, teenage and adult life. I am not too happy telling people I don’t even know of my past criminal activity in my drug addiction or no-good, so-called life.

My use of dangerous drugs took a very bad turn that completely changed my life for the worse that kept evil demons pulling my feet lower down to hell. Little did I know the existence of my Lord and Savior back in my lost days of stupidity and ignorance. Every dog has its day, and so did I when I hit rock bottom in 1979. Partying on drugs and alcohol led me to break into a store to steal more alcohol after hours, and this lands me in jail. With my luck I got a five-year prison sentence and because it was my first felony offense, I got only four months on shock probation.

While at prison I got on my knees crying like a newborn baby and vowed to my Lord never to use drugs and alcohol again. God granted my shock probation and I was released in December in time to celebrate my freedom and Christmas day. Walking out a free man to do as I wished, and again, not keeping my promise to God and myself, I’m back in jail five hours later for aggravated assault due to drugs and alcohol that altered my mind once again. So, back on my knees again, but this time crying like I was sorry for my actions and picking up the bible for the first time in my life.

I read and reread the bible and started the Jesus walk as most of us do in times of real trouble or needs. I pray to Jesus for a short term in prison and to get my probation revoked for my crime. Back to prison in tears of sadness and pain, nevertheless taking my life seriously. Playing with my family and my holy role to deceive my family and deceiving myself. I did 18 months this time on my five-year sentence and back to my negativity and drug addiction that had a hold on me.

After my release I’ve been in prison ten times and finally opened the door for Jesus into my heart. I’ve been really blessed with the Holy Spirit that has taken control of my life. Now I can really say that I am a newborn baby in Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Good things come to those who patiently wait. Amen! A true testimony written with the glory of God. Sincerely, E.T.

*Dear E.T., Praise God that you have been blessed with the Holy Spirit who has taken control of your life and you finally surrendered to Him. The results of your surrender will be seen in the change in you upon your release. As you say you started the Jesus walk when you read the bible and reread it. It says in **Romans 12:2**, “Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may judge what is God’s will, what is good, pleasing and perfect.” Healing is a process. It takes time. As you put into practice what God’s word says your mind will be transformed from the negativity and drug addiction,*

the cravings you cannot control to peace and joy and most of all love for others. We will pray for you so there will not be an 11th time. “...let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who inspires and perfects our faith.” Hebrews 12:2

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St. Dismas Guild, thank you guys for sending me your monthly letters. I enjoy reading the testimonies and Pro-Life articles. It’s been about 4-1/2 years now and I have been moved to a prerelease area and am under review to go home on parole. I’ve been taking the advice of Romans 12:1-2 and trying to walk and live by the Spirit every day, one day at a time. It’s not easy. The other day as I was meditating on God’s Word, the question came across my mind about how long have you been in the wilderness and living by bread alone. As I thought about it, it’s been 40 years and I was hungry but didn’t know what for. That took me to Deut. 4:1-6. It was awesome how these verses spoke to me and showed me how I was afflicted during those years in the wilderness. And now God’s manna is His Word.

As I grow by studying the Scriptures, I now desire meat, which is His wisdom and understanding. God has shown me Faith, which is being obedient, loyal and trusting in Him with all my heart, with all my mind and being. Not only do I see the changes, but others tell me they see the way God is working in my life. I’m so glad that God has given me the opportunity to renew my mind and learn that we can trust in Him whole heartedly. It’s wonderful to be able to know that we have access to the Tree of Life and can walk in the Fruits of His Spirit and manifest the gifts of His Holy Spirit in our lives. So that we can help others come closer to God through His only begotten Son, Jesus Our Messiah.

I wake up in the morning with Jesus on my mind and I find myself praying constantly. And studying the Scriptures daily I’ve learned that through God’s will, not mine, life is more abundant, peaceful and blessed. So I have about two months left and you can discontinue the newsletters. I have your address and I’ll let you know my new address when I get there. Keep up the good work in Christ our Messiah. Praise the Lord, Oh my soul, May the Peace and Love of our Creator be with you all. Amen! Sincerely, R. B.

*Dear R.B., Thank you for your tremendous testimony of faith. Your life has been transformed in not only reading God’s Word but in observing it and others see the change in you. It is obvious you have a personal relationship with Jesus and have received His love for you. As you follow the lead of the Holy Spirit by listening and obeying the word of God, you are not relying on your own intelligence but on the Word of God as **Proverbs 3:5-6** says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not; In all your ways be mindful of Him and He will make straight your path.” Thank you again for your powerful*

testimony. God bless you (*Deuteronomy 4:1-6* is powerful for those who want to read it)

++++++

Dear St. Dismas Guild, I wish to give you \$1,000,000, this is my wish. For now, I am able to send you \$10, may it be Blessed by God, Watered with LOVE, and Grow in Spirit. I am and have been a prisoner for nearly 34 years and I too rely on the Kindness of my dear friends... Please keep all my friends in your prayers. God bless All His children no matter where they/we are. Sincerely in Jesus Christ, D.L. Thank you D.L.

++++++

St. Dismas Guild, thank you so much for your ministry, especially in a time when I have received so few letters from family and no visits in the last 2 years. To receive mail in the name of Jesus Christ is Truly a Blessing. Because I'm leaving prison soon. I respectfully ask that you remove me from your mailing list. It has been a Great blessing and has helped prepare me for what I am about to face on the outside. May God Bless you and keep you and your ministry... Respectfully, S.S.

Dear S.S., We sent you our Being Released Letter to encourage you to keep going to mass and confession and doing the Bible Study and to let us know your new address so that we can continue to send you our Monthly Newsletter.

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCH'S MONTHLY DEDICATION FOR MAY 2019: May is the month of Mary; devotion to the Blessed **Mother** throughout May originated in Rome in the 18th century to counter immorality and infidelity among students at a college there. It has spread through most of the Latin Church now. Because the North American holiday of **Mother's** Day falls in May, Catholics take this time to recall and try to emulate Mary's role as **Mother**. Therefore, devotion to Mary in the month of May focuses both on Mary as a role model for Christian **Mother's**, and Mary's everlasting chastity and purity, and her fidelity to God's will. www.aquinasandmore.com

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION:
Evangelization – For the Church in Africa...
That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for the continent.

EASTERTIDE – EASTER SEASON – “Easter for Christians is not just one day, but rather a 50-day period. The season of Easter, or Eastertide, begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends on Pentecost (June 9th this year), the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church (see Acts 2). Easter is also more than just an extended celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.” We also celebrate the Feast Days of Saints Phillip, James, and Matthias, Apostles, and the Ascension of the Lord during the month of May this year.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

With Fr. Richard P.

Where in the bible does it teach that the bible is the only way to teach?

The Bible speaks of itself, Sacred Scripture, as a teaching source for the truth of God. **2 Timothy 3:15-17** “and that from infancy you have known [the] sacred scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for

teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”

The Bible does Not refer to itself as the only way to teach anything. There is not mathematics, geography, history, science and so forth. Even when one does teach the truths of the Bible for faith in God and to live His truth in a moral life, it is done through a philosophy, a way of organizing thoughts. Classically for Catholics the natural law, the metaphysics have been used to elucidate the truths of the Bible.

Even among Christians, although the Bible will say things specifically, some understand them differently. For Catholics, **John 6:51-58** on the Eucharist is taken literally as the flesh and blood of Jesus, as is the prohibition against divorce and remarriage in **Matthew 19**. Other Christians see these differently because of the philosophical approach they may be using, even if they do not understand the philosophy by which they organize their thoughts to understand God's word.

When I read the Bible, I call first on the Holy Spirit to teach me. I submit myself to Him, to the Catechism of the Catholic Church because the references there are from the lived experience of Jesus back to the apostles.

FAMILY MINISTRY

FROM ONE OF OUR VOLUNTEERS - S.S.

My dad took his life when I was 4 years old. My **Mother** had three little girls before she was even 19. Two years before my dad died, he became very abusive and almost killed her several times. Needless to say, she was very traumatized and checked out with drugs the rest of her life. **Isaiah 49:15** – “**Can a Mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb Even should she forget, I will never forget you.**”

Mama Mary came into my Life in college when I discovered her during the many hours in art history classes. I loved the images of her and the angel Gabriel and the Madonna and Child images. I didn't realize she was leading me to her son Jesus, nor did I know the amazing impact she would have on the rest of my Life... Thank you Jesus for giving me your **Mother** to be my **Mother**.



John 19:26-27 – **Seeing His Mother there with the disciple whom He loved, Jesus said to His mother, “Woman, there is your son.” In turn He said to the disciple, “There is your Mother.”**

It doesn't matter how good or bad our **Mothers** are or may have been. Our Heavenly **Mother** is ALWAYS there for us. Remember to turn to her in times of sadness, sorrow or despair. She will Always embrace you, wrap you in her mantle and point you to her son, Jesus, who is; “**The Way and the Truth and the Life.**” **John 14:6**

Let us Pray for all **Mothers** who were abandoned, abused – sexually, physically or emotionally, mistreated in any way, etc., that His life will transform their lives.

PRO-LIFE

“You formed my most inner being; you knit me in my Mother's womb. I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works!” Psalm 139:13-14

Continued Easter Blessings to you, St Dismas Guild

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

www.stdismasguild.org . PO Box 2129 Escondido CA 92033