



# St. Dismas Guild

June. 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](http://www.stdismasguild.org)

Last Month we sent 123 Packages, (63 New inmate requests) and 4.246 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 want to thank you so much for your materials and prayers that you’ve sent me over the years. It enabled me to maintain my connection to God through the Church and helped strengthen my walk and knowledge of Scripture. A little about myself. I was raised Presbyterian, a pretty anti-Catholic group, until I was nine and we moved to another town. My family didn’t really attend services as my **father** was rarely home on Sundays because of his job, but my Mom and I would watch a TV Christian program. Then I started attending a Christian school system and their religious services and daily bible classes.

It wasn’t really until 10<sup>th</sup> grade that I accepted Jesus’ Lordship over my life and pretty much led a quiet life as a teenager. But I dabbled in credit card fraud after turning 16. At 18 I joined the Navy, serving two years. After my discharge I began to become more and more involved with the credit cards until I finally started to get into trouble with the law. During one of these times I discovered the Catholic Church thru a study of Church history, and **Scott Hahn’s studies were a crucial part of my conversion.** I now saw a fuller picture of God’s plan and what Jesus’ role should be in my life.

The Mass being so beautiful, linking us with all the past, and yet to believers with God in heaven, which I especially feel during Mass at the local Mission parish. But I still struggled over the years with my urge to commit credit card crimes. Now, here I am at 52, doing what I know, with God’s guidance, will be my **last** time being locked up. I will parole in May and I will be homeless, not even having the “clothes on my back.” But I hope to go to the local Veterans program. I will keep in touch and hope to help out where I can. God bless you all and DON’T STOP! Your ministry is a crucial one. My love to all of you. In His Grace, Your Brother in Christ. J.E.

*Thank you, JE, for sharing. Your testimony shows clearly you are in a battle. **Keep drawing your strength from the Lord and His mighty power and put on the armor of God, Ephesians 6.** It was the grace of Jesus that touched your mom to have you watch with her Christian TV shows, and your parents being able to send you to Christian schools. Proverbs 22:6 says, “Train a boy in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not swerve from it.” You’re so blessed to have that kind of background. As you continue to look at God’s plan for your life you can see that “all things work for the good of those who love the Lord” (Romans 8:28). He loves you and see’s your heart. Jeremiah 29:11 says. “**For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope.**” We sent you our book “Overcoming Compulsive Behavior” to help you resist Satan. You can overcome sin because you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. You belong*

*to God and you have conquered the evil one **for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world, 1 John 4:4.***

## DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St. Dismas Guild, This is my testimony. I grew up in a Christian-based family. My parents were never “devout,” but we attended most of the Baptist functions. Being here in prison has allowed me to be exposed to the Catholic Church and I have been attracted to its rich history and disciplines. At 16 I discovered the false joys of marijuana, then into drinking and trying every drug I came across.

At 15 I was diagnosed with depression/anxiety disorder by our family doctor. From 15 to 27 years of age I have cycled on and off of just about every popular anti-depressant out there. Only now do I really wish to leave the pills alone and trust God with my mind. So, prison has allowed my mind to clear up and see all that I was oblivious to. For example, how my sexual deviancy evolved until it caused this major downfall. I believe God used my sin to completely humble me. He made me to see how much I needed His Son.

I was in utter terror when I came to prison. People like me get brutally beaten or even killed. Lo and behold, I wasn’t physically beaten, but mentally and emotionally I was attacked daily. Threatened to be flighted to the hospital, extorted for commissary, and continually told I wasn’t human anymore. For months I tried to numb the pain with synthetic marijuana. Quickly I would run out of money, I couldn’t escape. Finally, I did get help, I couldn’t be there anymore. Call me a snitch, fine, but I had to get out. No person deserves to be treated like that. The fear was worse than death. I died a thousand deaths there. God brought me to a much safer place.

We’re all victims of each other; the victimization ends at the Cross. Now I tell God that I will only die once more. Then I shall go to him. We all need the forgiveness and wisdom and love of Christ. I can truly begin to leave the past behind me. I still stumble, but I find my resolve being strengthened each time so that I am able to bounce back quicker. Where do you think that power comes from? I know it isn’t from me, but Christ in me. He is in you too. Amen. T.B.

*TB, It is God’s grace that is giving you the desire to leave the pills alone and trust God “**It is God who, in His good will toward you, begets in you any measure of desire or achievement**” (Philippians 2:13). He touched you TB. God cares for you and loves you. I am sure He is very pleased that you are trusting Him because He only wants what is good for you. **1 John 4:18 says, “Love has no room for fear; rather, perfect love casts out all fear.”** And since fear has to do with punishment, love is not yet perfect in one who is afraid. **God loves you with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3).** So many others speak of the fear that is so prevalent in prison. It must be awful to be so afraid to even close your eyes. We are so glad you are in a safer place. Continue reminding yourself of His love for you and memorize, **Romans***

8:38-39 "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

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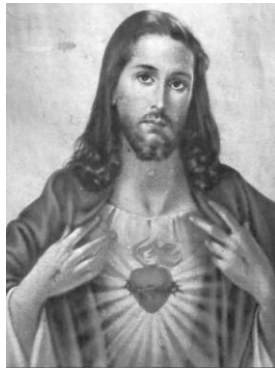
Hello St. Dismas Guild, I received the New Catechism of the Catholic Church, and thank you and God bless. All the materials you've sent have been awesome and greatly appreciated by me. I'm in a system that appears to be anti-rehabilitation, and I was warned that this county prison is backward. Everything that is "all good" in the real world is "all bad" in prison and vice versa. But your material helps me stay focused on God and bettering myself even if I'm the only one who is concerned about my life or release! God bless, D.B.

Thank you, D.B., we LOVE to hear from people how our materials are helping them and most especially LOVE the gratitude we hear in all the letters we receive. It's all for God's Glory. God bless you....

## SACRED TRADITION

### THE CHURCH'S MONTHLY DEDICATION FOR JUNE 2019:

June is the month of the **Sacred Heart**. A devotion long practiced privately, it was officially approved in the 1800s. Devotion to the **Sacred Heart** encourages participation in Holy Hour Eucharistic Adoration and to receive Holy Communion on the first Friday of every month. [www.aquinasandmore.com](http://www.aquinasandmore.com)



### POPE FRANCIS PRAYER

**INTENTION:** The Mode of Life of Priests - That priests, through the modesty and humility of their lives, commit themselves actively to a solidarity with those who are most poor.

### SPECIAL DAY'S IN JUNE

Pentecost Sunday – June 9<sup>th</sup>

The Most Holy Trinity – June 16<sup>th</sup>

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) – June 23<sup>rd</sup>

Solemnity of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus – June 28<sup>th</sup>

## A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW BOARD PRESIDENT

Friends of Saint Dismas Guild, if you ever met the legendary Deacon Ken Finn, I suspect you never forgot him. If you never had the blessing of meeting the founders of Saint Dismas Guild Prison Ministry, Deacon Ken and his wife Marie, You missed out on seeing two of God's servants working tirelessly to bring about God's perfect will and plan on earth to help all of God's children know Jesus better. You and I and countless others, owe a debt of gratitude to their work and their love and concern for others, especially those that live on the margins of life... the poor the hungry, the imprisoned and the lonely. Saint Dismas Guild is one of their finest achievements which they started 30 years ago in 1989.

I am pleased and honored to be the new President and part of the Saint Dismas Guild team. It is a small but mighty team of dedicated staff and volunteers who continue the efforts of Deacon Ken and Marie by reaching out to prison chaplains who in turn reach out to the prisoners, by providing at no cost, the Catholic bible

study, "The Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study" books and pamphlets written and published by Deacon Ken and Marie. Many lives have been changed and saved in the past 30 years. Broken men and women who have nothing left but the time they are serving in prison, read and study God's Holy scripture and start applying those "truths" to their lives daily. How do we know? The letters we receive every day from prisoners, and former prisoners around the country and the testimonies that are in those letters. Our volunteers are amazing! It is expensive to offer free bible studies and newsletters to those that seem so hopeless, yet the hope that they describe after embracing Gods "Word" ...makes it all worth the price we pay. In His holy name, Deacon Mitch

## FAMILY MINISTRY

During the month of June, we celebrate **Father's Day**. I thank God for the family that I grew up in, especially my hard-working dad, who worked two jobs to put us all through Catholic school. Through my faith journey, I learned that I had another **father**; God in heaven was my **father**. "See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are." (1 John 3:1)

Whether or not you had a loving, faithful **father**, we can all turn to God our **father** in heaven who loves us simply because we are His children. He is our loving, faithful **Father**!

Having a family of my own now, I admire my husband and my dad even more, as dads have an incredible responsibility. They need to be a good husband, loving **father** and spiritual leader just to name a few. This month, I ask St. Joseph for his intercession for all fathers and families. As Mary is our role model for mothers, St. Joseph is our role model for **fathers**. St. Joseph teaches us that being a **father** is more than biological, as he was not the biological **father** of Jesus. Raising Jesus in a Jewish household, **St. Joseph was the spiritual leader and teacher of the faith.**

Pope Francis called St. Joseph, the guardian of Jesus and guardian of the Holy Family. "May his presence make us stronger and more courageous in making space for God in our lives to always defeat evil with good. We ask Him to protect us, take care of us, so that a life of grace grows stronger in each of us every day." (Pope Francis about St. Joseph, July 2013)

## PRO-LIFE

"More than four thousand innocent lives are taken each day in this land of the free and home of the brave, whose lady holds high the torch of welcome to human life."

*John Powell, Abortion: The Silent Holocaust*

"Más de cuatro mil vidas inocentes son eliminadas cada día en esta tierra llamada de la libertad y cuna de los valientes, cuya Patrona o Estatua de la Libertad, mantiene en alto la antorcha de bienvenida a la vida humana." ~ *ProLife Articles* ~ <https://pro-lifearticles.org>

## REQUEST

**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?

We would especial Love to hear how the Bread of Life Bible Study has helped you in your journey with the Lord. Please limit your testimonies to 500 words. Thank you...

**Blessings, St Dismas Guild**

**St. Dismas Guild:** 501(c)(3) non-profit organization - Evangelization through Scripture and Ministry to prisons.

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