



St. Dismas Guild

August 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

We receive many letters each week from inmates & send, Free of Charge, on average 120 Packages & 4,000 Newsletters per month to prison facilities across the United States. Our introductory package consists of; The Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study, a Catholic Bible, a Basic Catechism, Prayer Pamphlets w/Holy Cards, a Monthly Newsletter and a list of books, at a cost of about \$25 per package. Please consider making a monthly donation to sponsor a new inmate each month.



30th Anniversary Celebration

How St. Dismas Guild began: Deacon Ken Finn became a Catholic deacon in 1978 and two years later began work as a prison chaplain, counseling inmates at a rate of 100 to 150 a month. Deacon Ken said, “I try to tell the person they’re not a piece of junk or garbage... Christ loved the sinner...I have never met a person in my life who does not want to be loved.”

Through this work, Deacon Ken developed a passion for prisoners. Inspired by Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Deacon Ken and his wife Marie began St. Dismas Guild in August of 1989, **30 years ago!** Soon after they began writing a bible study and sharing the lessons with the Sister of Mother Teresa. The Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study was completed in 1992 and is now published in both the English and Spanish languages.

St. Dismas Guild is a Catholic non-profit organization whose mission is to bring Jesus Christ, the Word of God, to the broken, the lost and the lonely, the sick and the imprisoned. The objective of St. Dismas Guild is to prepare, transcribe, publish and distribute teaching aids and commentaries on Holy Scripture and to go out and search for the broken, the lost, the lonely, the hurting, the addict, and the sick and bring them into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and continued growth, by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Sacred Scripture, Church Teaching, and the Sacraments.

In 2014 Deacon Ken went home to be with our Lord. He is greatly missed and all in St. Dismas Guild pray for his intercession so the Guild may continue and flourish its mission. St. Dismas Guild continues to grow and currently distributes the Bible Study along with other Catholic publications to over 120 prisoners every month at no cost to the prisoners. In addition to providing books to the prisoners, St. Dismas Guild distributes a monthly Newsletter containing testimonies to a mailing list of almost 4500. These printed testimonies are just a sample of the numerous letters the Guild receives from those who have experienced healing through their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Call to Action – On 8/18/19 please join us in prayer for the continued success of St. Dismas Guild. Thank you to all our generous donors who support St. Dismas Guild and help to spread the Word of God and His message of love.

A Call to Inmates

- Tell a Friend about our Free Bibles, Bible Study workbooks and Newsletters.
- Start a Bible Study group.
- Send us your Testimony and tell us how God is working in your Life!

TESTIMONY

St Dismas Guild, greetings in the mighty name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I have been in prison for 20 years. I grew up Lutheran and of course got away

from God. My wife is Catholic, I pulled her away and got her to attend a Lutheran Church. We had some bad um... things that took place turning us away from God. I somehow got into Satanism and dragged my wife into it too. She became a medium and I would regularly speak to Satan himself and demons through her. Signs and wonders drew me in more and they tried to kill my wife several times blaming it on the church praying against us, wishing us harm. They took our hurts etc. and made us harden our hearts more.

My wife had a heart attack November 2018 (The demons prophesies it and then did it six months earlier). She got a serious infection during surgery and was dying. She told me she literally felt God come inside her heart and heal her and the light shined. For 40 days she was in the hospital and they (demons) would block our phone calls, demons would answer saying, “the church was praying against us trying to separate us”. I prayed hard back against the church. Things got bad, one attack after another, and I cried out to God, renounced Satan, asked for forgiveness, and asked Jesus to come into my heart. My wife did the same.

She started to go back to mass, the church sent clergy to remove and destroy our books, Ouija board, crystal ball, alter, etc. Since then we have been under major demonic attacks/oppression, blocking our phone calls, mail, and overpowering her mind as she was a medium. I haven’t seen or gotten to talk to her more than 30 seconds since October or November. I tried to tell people what was going on and it was like they didn’t believe me or thought I was exaggerating about the demonic attacks (like trying to call my wife and demons answer threatening I’ll never see her again unless I come back. I rebuke them in Jesus Christ’s name.)

I still haven’t gotten through to my wife and have none on the outside to help or at least who cares. The only people who listened were Catholics and they prayed for me. One close friend began to share a few prayer pamphlets and apologetic booklets to read. I began praying the rosary (someone gave me a plastic one), the memorare, the Saint Michael the Archangel prayer, started attending mass and have been truly blessed. I spoke to Father M. today and I’m going to start the RCIA classes so I can be baptized into The Catholic Church. I wrote the church where my wife goes and told them about the demonic attacks and trust they are working with her.

Praise God we have been pulled out of the pits of hell and forgiven and given a second chance. His Catholic church is the only ones not scared off and have held our hands and truly loved us and are helping us. Please pray for us... I honestly want to learn, grow, and have a firm foundation and be a spiritual leader to my wife, children, and men in here. Thank you for the work you do for the Lord. May God bless you richly. In Christ Jesus, M.R.

Reply from Fr. Rich - Dear M.R., Your testimony shows that evil is real, that Satan is real, and that he can exercise power over human beings to influence our

separation from God. Once Satan is let in through any portal, be it Ouija board, crystals, invocations, or attempts to communicate with the dead, the devil is very hard to get rid of. Even when a person renounces evil and Jesus comes into the heart, the connection with evil tries to reassert itself. It is a lifelong battle.

Most of us experience this life long battle with our sins, and not through an invitation to the devil to be in our life. These battles are lifelong also. Jesus has defeated Satan, robbed him of his kingdom, and is rescuing souls constantly.

- Stay close to Jesus, and when you are received into the Catholic church, go to confession as often as possible.
- Receive Jesus in the Eucharist as often as possible
- Read the Holy Bible each day, and pray the rosary.

Satan will not give up, but you will have a more powerful advocates in the fight: Jesus, the Holy Spirit, St. Michael the archangel, your guardian angel, all the saints, and the entire church to aid you in the fight.

James 4:7 "Resist the devil and he will take flight, but Satan will not give up. Yet if you hold out in Jesus to the end, you will be saved from hell for eternal life in heaven with Jesus the Savior."

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

To all at St. Dismas, Peace and Blessings. I received the most precious gift in the mail recently – a blue prayer book from you. I truly love it. The forgiveness prayer is the best. I am so pleased. This came at just the right time for me. So, thank you so much for sending it, prayers are so important. I have a hard time speaking my heart to God. I mostly just end up crying.

My life has been a huge waste. It is very upsetting. I missed out on the milestones in my children's life and now my grandchildren (who don't even know I exist) are growing into young adulthood and I am not there. I can't even say my spouse has stood by me because I don't have one of those. I've become bitter in my age of 56 and lonely.

Then this prayer book comes in the mail, an answered prayer. If anyone thinks God doesn't answer prayer – He does. I read in Acts 3 about the man lame from birth and as an adult he was carried to the temple gate to beg for alms, every day, for years. The same temple gate Jesus and the disciples passed through. But at this one particular day the lame man called out to Peter to get his attention. The man never did it before and Peter gave him something worth more than silver or gold. He gave him Jesus.

That is how I felt when I got that prayer book in the mail. I felt loved, accepted, and mostly, wanted and cherished. It is a human weakness to be wanted and needed by somebody, and you all at St. Dismas Guild did that for me. God heard my cries and He had put it on your hearts to come up with this prayer book. I can't thank you enough. God bless you. Peace to you all, K.L.

Thank you K.L., *"Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways" Prov. 20:30 Life is a journey and yes sometimes it's wasted because of our wrong choices. God still loves us; He just had a better plan for us... sometimes He allows us to wander and we fall so that we can totally depend on Him instead of ourselves. Jesus actually helped you up (Ps.37:23-24). He has given you this time and opportunity to draw closer to Him. He knows your broken heart and lost time. "He heals the Brokenhearted and bandages their*

wounds." Ps.147:3 *"The Lord is near to those who are discouraged, He saves those who have lost all Hope."* Ps. 34:18 *We will never understand God's plans. Jesus with His Love, Mercy, and Tenderness, see's your pain and it is through this time He is blessing you and revealing that even though you've missed out on lost time He is still giving you Hope... Hope for a new tomorrow.*

"May God, the source of Hope, fill you with all Joy and Peace by means of your Faith in Him so that your Hope will continue to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit." Rom. 15:13 Continue to persevere in prayer, Trust in Our Lord completely and allow Him to heal your heart.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Dismas Guild, I was on your mailing list once and I would very much love to receive the newsletter once again. The testimonies and news of other brothers who were once lost are a great inspiration to brothers like myself who continue to struggle. I recently received a letter from home. It was a notice that my young female cousin had passed. I found myself crying; something I haven't done in a while. I began to condemn prayer and everything religious. Enclosed with the letter was a very beautiful funeral card. While looking at it and reading it, I told myself, "don't cry, everyone is looking". Well, all of a sudden everyone moved out of eye sight. It was like someone made room for me to cry! I don't know. I just might be thinking crazy. Help! Brother struggling, C.J.

Dear C.J., In Chapter 11 of Saint John's Gospel, we read about Jesus going to Bethany where his friend Lazarus had died. When he arrived, Mary, the sister of Lazarus was crying and so were the people who were with her. What did Jesus do? Verse 35 tells us, **"and Jesus wept"**. Jesus was like us in all things but sin. He felt what you felt and He gave you room to cry. St. John also tells us that death is not the end. **"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 Also, Read Psalm 23, (the LORD is my Shepherd) and slowly reflect on the words and believe.**

SACRED TRADITION

THE CHURCH'S DEDICATION FOR AUGUST

2019: The month of August is dedicated to **The Immaculate Heart of Mary**. The entire month falls within the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. It is used in the offices and Masses of Ordinary Time.



PRO-LIFE

"Abortion kills twice. It kills the body of the baby and it kills the conscience of the mother. Abortion is profoundly anti-women. Three quarters of its victims are women: Half the babies and all the mothers." ~ St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Thank you for sending us your letters to share. Blessings, from all of us here at St. Dismas Guild