



# St. Dismas Guild

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

[www.stdismas.org](http://www.stdismas.org) November 2009

## TESTIMONY

By  
K.B.

I believe my conversion from Protestant to Catholic started many years ago when I worked in a senior living center. I met a Catholic Priest who was living in the center. He and I became friends when I take to shaving him because he would cut himself up trying to do it himself. He didn't preach to me but instead showed me what being a Catholic was all about. He lived a spartan life at the center but you could sense the richness of his life.

He passed on to this life but he also passed on something to me which I didn't realize at the time. His faith in God and how to live it. Now I can look back and can see it.

I wasn't a very faithful christian at the time. I had started using drugs, Meth mostly amongst others, after being clean for 7 years. I had a series of bad events happen to me which I used to let myself get deeper and deeper into drugs, using and sales. I lost my job, then my wife left me, my grandmother died, got and lost another job. I then ran amok for 2 years. Doing all the things that goes along with addiction and holding the bag. Anyway as things go it, all came to an end when they raided my home.

That was when my life changed again. In anguish, while in jail, I turned back to God. I pledged myself to him and felt him come back into my life. I bailed myself out by putting my house up as collateral. I continued going to Church, Protestant, but was still living my drug lifestyle. Then I got busted again because I missed a court date. I was put in a different dorm where I met a Catholic layman who put on a non denominational bible study. I was surprised at this. What man would come to a jail to do what he did, he wasn't a preacher, or minister, or Priest.

Here was a man rich enough in his faith to come to help us find a new way in our lives. Shortly thereafter I was transferred to the trusty dorm, where I met another Catholic Priest who had that richness about him. He put on a bible study once a week in the trusty's dorm. I felt encouraged by him and his faith. He helped me to feel hope even though I knew I was going to prison. Even though I knew I was losing everything material, home, car, most all my belongings. I thought that Prison was the end of my life.

When I got to prison, I started going back to Protestant bible studies but got turned off by them. Partly because of their religion bashing. I was transferred to a different yard because of my points and attitude. That's where I found a Catholic Bible Study put on by an assistant Chaplain who is a layman. I had many questions for him and he had one invitation for me. An invitation to come to Mass.

That's where I met a Priest from Nigeria. Between these two men, their belief, their faith, the Mass and the Bible Study they brought me into the Church. The one true Church.

Also, I am the first Catholic to become the chapel clerk in at least four going on five years. The chapel was closed for quite a while, but I have gotten it back open in the mornings for the men on the yard. I also have opened a chapel library which the men can use. I learned to be thankful for all of this. I thank God for all that has befallen me. For if not for him I would probably be dead or killed by someone. I'm glad he interviened in my life the way he did through all these men. It has saved me spiritually, mentally and physically. Thanks be to God.

*This is the year of the Priest designated by Pope Benedict XVI. A year to be thankful for the priest who have come into our lives and made such an impact on us as they have on*

*your life. The influence the Priest have in our lives have an enormous effect on us in seeing the love of Christ. Bringing Jesus to us in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, absolving us of our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) and the many other graces we receive from God through the Priest can only lead us to say thank you. This month of Thanksgiving, we say thank you to each and every Priest who has had some impact in our lives. Hebrews 5:1-3 says, "Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness and so, for this reason, must make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people." Your conversion to the Lord was influenced by not only the priest but by God's Word. Thank you for sharing your testimony.*

## DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear Deacon Ken & Marie, Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I just received the package a couple days ago, and although I have just begun to delve into everything, I have to thank you. I am now three days into the Bible Study, but I am already expanding my knowledge and deepening my faith. And the Catechism is wonderful. Receiving the two I feel doubly blessed. I especially want to thank you for the bible though. I have had a Gideon bible, of course, but was missing much. It is great to be able to read the deuterocanonical books again, and the maps in the back have greatly helped me understand much. I have long tried to imagine the travels of Christ, of the various battles and divisions of the 12 tribes of Isriael in the Pentateuch, and the locations of the churches in St. Paul's letters. Now as I read again the relevant books and Gospels I expect them to be much more impactful! Again, thank you! And may God continue to bless your good work. C.D.

*C.D., In looking at the history one scripture that really stands out is Exodus 14:14, "The Lord Himself will fight for you, you have only to keep still." Your right C.D., receiving the Bible, Bible Study and Catechism will fill you with the knowledge of God's incredible love for you. As you study the first five books of the bible you can really see what a loving God we have. Continue in Wisdom and knowledge of God's way of life and follow what he says and you will have a peace that passes all understanding.*

Dear St. Dismas Guild, Thank you very much for sending your newsletter. I enjoy it a lot. Your support is a blessing to me spiritually, physically and emotionally. Your Cycle B Bible Study helps me a lot. Being in prison people get to me. But the prayer that helps me a lot is every morning before I start my day, "Lord, thank you for another day. Please keep evil away from me. Keep me high above my enemies and in the path of light in your right hand." You would not know how many people leave me alone as in talking to me. I don't need problems in my life. I just want to go home safely to my family. My best friend is God. Thank you very much for your support. God Bless, E.T.

PS – In reading your newsletter it said you have a Cycle C Bible Study. May I receive one. And any Catholic material or Scriptures. Thank you and God Bless.

*E.T., Cycle C is on its way to you. Another prayer that will be a big help as you do your time in prison is the St. Michael the Archangel prayer, "St Michael, the archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do*

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

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*thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls, Amen. Always remember our struggle is not with flesh and blood, but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. (Ephesians 5:12) Thank you for sharing your powerful prayer you say each morning.*

Dear St. Dismas Guild, I am currently serving a sentence for drug possession in a Louisiana prison. From a young age I felt the Lord's call in my life. At the age of 14 I met with my parish priest about dedicating my service in the priesthood. Shortly after this I became involved with drugs, premarital sex and pornography. When I was 19 years old I caught my first charge for drug possession. After the court gave me many chances to forgo jail time I was sentenced to 2 1/2 years on 5. In this time I still felt the Lord's call but didn't feel worthy to be of service. When I got out, I didn't cultivate a relationship with God or the Church so I went back to all my old ways. When I sentenced to the term I am serving now I knew it was time to chose a path and stay on it. My father sent me a Catechism and a book on prayer, he also sent a very special visitor to see me. The very same priest, who is now retired, came to visit me here and we had a long talk about what I planned to do with my life. I explained to him that serving God and others was my main joy in life. The simple life of chastity and poverty that is the call of God has become my goal and purpose. He said that if I was sincere and proved myself truly reformed that I could attend seminary upon completion of two years of college. The short time I have left in prison has been a light burden with the help of Christ. He has blessed me to serve others with the gifts of knowledge, wisdom, understanding, counsel, piety, fortitude and the fear of the Lord. My studies give me a deeper understanding into the sacraments and a bright new future serving God's people. May God bless your hearts and hands for your continued work in the Body of Christ. My prayers are with you daily. Love and unity, ZP  
P.S. I have also been teaching people in the GED program here and plan to continue service in adult education as part of my ministry in the future.

*ZP, It is so true what you say. If you don't cultivate your relationship with God and the Church when you get out of prison then you will end up right back where you were before. We need to be with like minded people By that I mean people who have made Jesus Lord of their life. That means to do what God tells us in His Word, not what we want to do. Its exciting to hear you say you are operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11). That is where the power is to transform the world. God bless you brother.*

Dear Deacon Ken & Marie, First off I would like to thank you for "The Bread of Life" bible study and materials, I sure appreciate it. It's good to know "Catholics" like me that are incarcerated have a place to correspond with and have a chance to do our very own Catholic Bible Study. It's hard to get a bible study here where I'm at because most of them are "Protestants", not that I have anything against Protestants, but I do love my Catholic faith we have a very rich history 2009 years to be correct and that I am very proud of. Recently, I have been studying the Popes starting with my favorite one such as Urban 2, Innocent 3, Leo 3, it's very intriguing and to know the good they have done for the Church. My chaplain here is Catholic and goes by the name Dismas, he's a good man and gets me material on the Popes, "Church Fathers".

Well, Deacon Ken & Marie God Bless the both of you as well as all the other Catholic brothers that are incarcerated. Peace be with you AG, The Roman Catholic  
P.S. Thank you and all the staff at St. Dismas Guild for all the hard work you do for us, God Bless You.

*I find studying the Catholic Catechism of the Catholic Church is an excellent study of the history of the churches teachings and its teachers. You are very right in saying that we have over 2000 years of continuity and of course our Church was given to us by Christ Himself. I think your*

*Chaplain is blessed to have a wonderful name like Dismas. He is the patron saint of the condemned. I encourage you to keep being informed of the magnificent Popes that our Church has had and continues to have. As we approach thanksgiving, let us thank God for loving us so much that He gave us His only begotten Son to die on the cross for us and when we believe in Him then our sins are forgiven and we become a child of God. Thank Him tonight and praise Him in the morning.*

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Dear Deacon Ken & Marie, First of all let me say Thank you so very much for all that you and your ministry does for those of us incarcerated with minimum or no resources. I have spent two years as the Chapel clerk here at our Chapel. I have witnessed first hand the countless blessings the efforts, hard work and dedication you and your staff have bestowed on so many lost men searching for guidance and refuge, salvation and reconciliation by returning to or seeking for the first time Jesus Christ through the Catholic faith. I pray that the Lord continues to bestow blessings on all your ministry and that you continue to touch so many in need. Secondly, upon receiving your September monthly newsletter, I was inspired by the "testimony by Daniel" and your event "40 Days for Life-Pray to end Abortion." Two months ago our sponsor from the local prison ministry challenged us to write a prayer for all who suffer from the hopeless evil we know as abortion. I would like to humbly submit a prayer I wrote in response to the challenge to you and all those touched by your ministry.

To all those who have faced, those whom are facing, and all those who may someday come to that crossroad that they have the spiritual strength and wisdom to choose "LIFE". That in choosing Life they will find the TRUTH. And that Truth is the Son of God, the Christ Jesus. All my prayers and Best Wishes, AZ

#### A PRAYER TO THE CREATOR OF LIFE

Heavenly Father, God of all Creations. Please hear my prayer, for my heart is heavy. My days are never ending and the nights... sleepless. The cries of the innocent are deafening. Their tears... they haunt my dreams. Can you hear them Lord? Your children are dying. Yet, my sorrow and confusion is not sufficient. My suffering and anguish can be no equal. How you must grieve from the senseless slaughter of the innocent. How your heart must break with the loss of each new life. Rescue them Lord, from evil we know as abortion. God, our Father, you gave us your child, Jesus. Through His birth, death and resurrection you made us your children. Through your son, you made us a new creation. For you are the Father of all, you are the Creator from the moment of conception. The very first moment of existence until the very end, only you are the Lord of Life. Heavenly Father, touch those overwhelmed by their circumstances. Bring hope to those who make choices in moments of despair and confusion. Enlighten those who have given their professions and life saving skills over to the works of darkness. Grant compassion and understanding to those who hide in shame, salvation and reconciliation to all those who carry guilt and deliver them from death to life. Lord, strengthen us to be protectors of the unborn. Empower us to be guardians of Life. Grant us wisdom to recognize all human life must be respected from conception to it's natural end. All this I ask in humility and confidence. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, AMEN.

\*\*\*UPDATE\*\*\*

#### BENEDICTUS - A MINISTRY TO CATHOLIC MEN

Saturday, December 5, 2009 (7:00-10:30AM)

Lawrence Welk Resort (next to theater) - Escondido

Guest Speaker - Deacon Jim Kostick

Web Site: [www.Benedictus1.com](http://www.Benedictus1.com) - Pay by PayPal online

We want to wish you a Blessed Thanksgiving. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness they will be satisfied. Thank you and my God bless you abundantly. Your brother and sister in Christ,



Deacon Ken & Marie