



# 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) August 2009

## TESTIMONY

BY  
B.O.

I am not much of a writer but I would like to tell my story, so that it may touch someone and let them know that there is such a thing as Jesus Christ and Blessed Mother Mary. I am a female. I was born in 1984. My Mom raised me with 7 other of my siblings. My Dad was allowed to have us almost every weekend. I guess, I grew up as normal as could be expected. We never had much money, but we were happy. I was never abused as a child sexually, physically, or mentally.

At age 14, I started rebelling. I started hanging with older people and smoking cigarettes and marijuana. I got expelled from school for hitting a teacher and I was put on probation for battery. From then on, I was always in trouble. I was having sex and getting high.

When I was 15 tragedy struck us for the first time. My 19 year old brother was run over by a drunk driver and killed. That hit me hard. I was mad at God and everyone. I wanted to know "Why"? I started hanging with a bad crowd and really getting high and drunk to ease the grief. Two years later my 22 year old brother was killed at work. I had a "nervous breakdown." I was 17. I started hanging out with my sister who was one year younger than me. We got real close. I started hanging with her and her friends. I continued smoking pot and drinking alcohol. I thought everything would be okay then and I could somehow move on with my life. Boy was I wrong.

One year after that, me and my sister called my brother and his friend. We wanted to go to a friend of the families house. My brother was busy, so they couldn't come right then. We called two guys that we knew. They picked us up. We told our Mom "bye" and walked out. Little did she know that would be the last time she would see my sister alive. We left. We didn't get very far and we were on a head on collision. Me and my sister were unconscious and airlifted to a hospital. We weren't expected to live through the night. I stayed in a coma for a month. My sister lived six days and passed away. I got out of the hospital two months later. I didn't want to go on. I got on heavy drugs then. I was in and out of psych units for trying to kill myself. I was lost. I didn't know where to turn. I wanted to ease the pain of losing three siblings any way possible. I stayed High. I felt like I couldn't go on. I somehow made it through drugs, rape, physical abuse, anything you can imagine. My family was steady praying for me and begging me to come home and stop hurting myself. I wasn't ready.

I got pregnant when I was twenty two. I didn't know who the dad was. I stayed high through the pregnancy. I had a baby boy at 7 months at a friends house. I was so high I didn't even feel it. I was prostituting, committing robberies, and everything during my pregnancy. I had a warrant for aggravated robbery. I had a funeral for my baby. After the funeral, I was arrested. I got a five year sentence. I have to do 50% of it.

Since then, I have accepted God in my life. I know there is hope. Without him I would not have made it this far. I am happy now. I attend church when we have it. I have found peace, even after everything I have been through. I give thanks to God for that. Believe me, it doesn't matter what you've been through, you can turn to God. He can and will help you through anything. You just need to ask and invite him in your heart. "Ask, and it shall be given you: seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Matthew 7:7

Thanks for your time reading this. I hope it will bring hope to someone. God is always listening.

*You might want to ask B. why do young girls fall into the trap of having sex at such a young age? We contend that they are looking for love and acceptance and to know in the deep recesses of their heart that they are loveable. We all have this hole in our heart which started with original sin when we separated ourselves from God. **God is love** and sin separates us from his love and a relationship with him. The more you separate yourself from him through drugs, anger, sex, the wider the hole becomes in your heart until one day while you were in jail the Good Shepherd picked up His lost lamb and for the first time she experienced true love. To become so numb to not even experience childbirth is the ultimate of separation from God. The loss of your siblings was a glimpse of death, and awakening call for some, for others, fear and hopelessness. But God loves the sinner and wishes no one to perish but all to have everlasting life. The decision is ours and you have made the decision in prison to follow him and to follow the blueprint for life on earth, the bible. You can say now as Martha said to Jesus in John 11, "Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." Pray the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-56) and spend time proclaiming the greatness of the Lord and what He has done for you.*

## DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear Deacon Ken & Marie, First off let me start with thank you and God bless you and your ministry. It's a blessing to receive the Bread of Life Bible Study and the Pamphlets of the Catholic Faith.

I was raised Catholic as a child, baptized, first communion, confirmation and an alter boy as well. But really didn't know or understand the faith. As a young adult I started to go to a spiritual filled type church. And it was good. I experienced the Holy Spirit like I never knew before. For a couple of years I was on fire for the Lord. Sharing my testimony and witnessing with a fellow brother in Christ. And it was good. But I was young in the Spirit and didn't discern. I was running the race at a hundred miles an hour and it got out of control. So I backed out of the ministry. And that's when all the trouble started with me going to prison, D.W.I.'s, living in sin, thinking I was doing alright. I was in denial. Now at forty years of age I started going back to church. The Catholic Church that is. I found answers to questions that I had. I found a new found understanding of the Catholic faith. There is so much to understand. The Catholic faith has the answers. The faith covers everything. Slowly but surely my faith is growing and I would like to thank the St. Dismas Guild for sending material to us inmates. Brother in Christ, R.T.

*R.T., Thank you for your encouragement to our ministry. It is easy to fall away when you are not under the headship of the Church as you found out. Many have had powerful experiences of God in their life and the power of the Holy Spirit and try to stay on the right path without the Church but as you found out with the lure of the world its almost impossible. We need the Church and its teaching and fellowship of others to help us on our journey. The Church is the foundation of truth as 1 Timothy 3:15 says, "...you should know how to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of truth." We sent you a Catechism of the Catholic Church and with that and your bible you will be grounded in the truth and not deceived by Satan, as long as you obey what you*

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

Board of Directors: Deacon Ken Finn, President; Marie Finn, Vice-President; Jean Michaels, Secretary; Gregory Witz, Accountant  
Steve Psomus, Laura Witz, Scott Schafer, Attorney - L. Fred Williams- Attorney Advisor- Rita McGranahan PO Box 2129 Escondido CA 92033

learn. Yes, the Catholic Church does have the answers. God bless you.

Dear Brother or Sister, My name is A. C. I returned from my bench warrant recently. I would like to begin receiving your monthly newsletter again. I will update you on any changes of my address. I am hoping for an upcoming release depending on paroles answer. Thank you. Will you please send me a rosary guide and a Catechism booklet? I'd also appreciate any and all prayer markers. I love them and use them for all kinds of things related to my daily walk. Unfortunately when I re-entered the system from county I was forced to mail these requested items home. Thank you.

Is there any information you can offer on how I go about completing my Confirmation? I have been Christened, completed my Holy Communion and attended classes toward my Confirmation, but I entered a very rebellious age and stopped attending. Please help me move this mountain. It was a promise and commitment I made that I would like to see through. I'm ready to make the mature decision to be confirmed and I'd like a better understanding of what I'm doing and how I go about fulfilling my promise to my God. Thank you for helping me with this area and all your ministry team does.

I was allowed to re-enter with my "Bread of Life" study. I love it! It is the most profound, right on time study I've ever done. Pentecost was so good and really brought home the message of fellowship, choosing the right friends and holding one another up in Christ, to share the message over all with others: to love one another, to bear with and forgive, praising God, giving Him all the glory. Thank you so much for your ministry, for your time, your response and your resources. Sincerely, A.C

*You too A.C. have seen that breaking away from the Catholic Church brings only sorrow and suffering. We sent you a Catechism. Read and study the section on Confirmation and everything on the Holy Spirit. Read about the connection between Baptism and Confirmation and the Holy Spirit. Read in your bible Isaiah 11:2-3 and 1 Corinthians 12-14. If you can enroll in an RCIA class through the prison or in your Church when you get out you will be able to receive your confirmation. Remember to ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and remind you of all Jesus said and did (John 14:26). When you were baptized you received the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God bless you.*

Dear Deacon Ken & Marie, Thank you for your monthly newsletter and prayers. I have been moved to S.C.I. and would like to receive your newsletter here. Could you please change my address? Thank you! This is the fifth largest S.C.I. in the country. We have a "real" Catholic Church here. I'm the secretary of our Holy Name Society here. We recently sent a "small" donation to St. Dismas for your Bible Study materials which we use in our various Bible Studies here. I'm getting out in a few months and I won't forget how much good you're doing. I pray and do the Liturgy of the Hours among other things. I'm praying for you, too. In Jesus love, R.

*Thank you for your encouraging words. Stay close to Jesus and remember that they will know who belongs to Jesus by the fruit you bear. Galatians 5:22-23 says, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Notice it says fruit and not fruits of the Spirit because they are all wrapped up in love.*

## UPDATE

COME PRAY WITH US: Abortion Clinic at 120 S Craven St San Marcos CA on Tuesday's from 9AM-10AM and at Planned Parenthood, 347 Mission St. Escondido from 10:30AM-11:30AM on Thursdays. Both facilities prevent us

from passing out literature because of their locations. We have no contact with the people going in and out of these facilities, consequently, we are unable to refer them to COLFS. Pray that our prayers reach the hearts of these women who are seeking abortions.

### BECOMING A STRONG WOMAN OF GOD

SEPTEMBER 12, 2009 – 10:30AM-3:45PM

ST. MARK CHURCH HALL, 1147 DISCOVERY ST  
SAN MARCOS CA 92078 - FREE OF CHARGE

Seven powerful speakers giving their own testimonies of how God has helped them in their state of life. Subjects – Abortion, Adoption, Marriage & Pure Love, Caring for Aging Parents, Raising Godly Children & Widowhood, Blessings of NFP, and Single Life with Christ & COLFS.

### BENEDICTUS

#### A MINISTRY TO CATHOLIC MEN

**"But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and a husband the head of his wife, and God the head of Christ." 1 Cor. 11:3**

**Saturday, September 19, 2009 (7:00 – 10:30AM)**

**Lawrence Welk Resort (next to theater)**

**8860 Lawrence Welk Drive, Escondido CA**

**Guest Speaker – Col. Luciano S. Silva, USMC – Retired**

**Come hear how God worked in this incredible warrior's life.**



"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." Luke 1:31

### PRO-LIFE

#### 40 Days of Life Campaign

September 23 – November 1

At the North County Women's Medical Clinic

120 Craven Rd San Marcos CA

40 Days for Life takes a determined, peaceful approach to showing local communities the consequences of abortion in their own neighborhoods, for their own friends and families. It puts into action a desire to cooperate with God in the carrying out of His plan for the end of abortion in America. To further familiarize yourselves with the campaign, please visit the official web site: [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com).

### COLFS

#### CRISIS PREGNANCY HOT LINE:

**760-741-1224 & 619-819-9138**

Thank you for all your physical, emotional, financial and spiritual support. We pray and thank God for all of you daily.

Your brother and sister in Christ,

*Deacon Ken & Marie*