



St. Dismas Guild

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

www.stdismas.org January 2009

TESTIMONY

BY
J.S.

Dear Deacon Ken & Marie, I would like to thank you for your letter in the November newsletter, the article on abortion, it also hit me real hard. I experienced a similar regret of taking my ex-fiance to get an abortion, we were together for about a year. She got pregnant, we made a very bad decision, because we were both not living together, & not stable enough to have a kid. After that she was not the same, and neither was I. Every time somebody talked about kids she cried and left the room. Since then we have three girls and had 1 boy, one of the girls was a twin. We had a boy and a girl two years ago, on Christmas Eve. My son died two months after that. The cause of death was crib death, it really tore us apart. I haven't been the same since that day. The twins name is Janae and his name is James. I named him after my brother that died as well. He was my only son, you know, you wish for a boy to take care of his sister growing up.

Sorry I would not be able to attend any of your services any time soon. I am going to be here for a while. But I would like to ask for a Cycle B of your Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study. I am trying to get baptized by Easter of next year. If you have anything to help me accomplish that, I would really appreciate it. Thank you very much for listening to me. Sorry so sloppy. Thank you and God bless.

I think if people realized the terrible affect having an abortion has on a woman's heart and mind they would think twice before going through with it. It is obvious that your girlfriends heart was terribly damaged by the abortion, not only hers but yours as well. God sees the heart we look at appearance. This is the month that Roe v Wade went into effect, January 22, 1973 is when it went into law. This was a dark day for America as fifty million babies have been aborted since then. Making it legal to have an abortion has caused many to push away any wrongdoing and justify the action. It is a grave sin to have an abortion because it is murder.

Thank God for the Cross. It is our saving grace. Jesus sets us free of the guilt of abortion and healing is possible. "...for nothing will be impossible for God"(Luke 1:37). We will be praying as you prepare for your baptism next Easter. If you have a Catechism read the lesson on baptism and, if you can, get hold of a priest or someone in charge of religious education and tell them what you would like to do. If not the Catechism and the bible study will be of great help. Some scriptural references are John 3:1-7 and Matthew 3:13-17(The Baptism of Jesus). Thank you for sharing and our prayers are with you.

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear Deacon Ken & offering of my prison ministry this Christmas much. Keep the



Marie, Here is a gift money for tithing to your month. Thank you very ministry, H.H.

Hello H, I pray that this note finds you in good health and spirit. I know this is a difficult time of the year for many men and women in prison. Your generosity is what we call putting on the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5). It means thinking and acting like Christ would. I am very well aware of how little you make from working in prison, so this \$8.00 gift is very special to all of us. Your gift back in May was also

a sign of your generous heart and mind of Christ. Scripture tells us in Malachi 3:8-10 that it is all Gods money and God is very pleased when you are generous. H, Christmas is a time to praise and reflect on God becoming a human. He came here to show us how to live, even in prison. He also came here to die for us on the cross, even for those who don't care who he is or what he did. He loves you H. and if you call out to him He will forgive you too. New Year's is a time to reflect and act on what is the best way to change your life for the better. I would suggest that you read and reflect on the scriptures every day. You may ask yourself, what did it say? What is He saying to me? What does He want me to do? H., this is the only way to become free and to stay free. It is not enough to think like Christ, we must act like Christ. If you are Catholic, try to go to confession and receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. I don't know if a priest is in your facility, but if he is, check him out. Well, my blessings are with you H. so take good care of yourself and again thank you for your gift.

Dear Deacon Ken & Marie, Let me start by saying thank you for all that you do, and now I would like to say, Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:33).

I am an inmate in state prison and this is my life story. I do not remember the exact day when I went from wanting drugs to needing drugs but I do know that I was one of the people that said that I was not going to do drugs. I had a good life as a kid. My Mom was a really good Mom. I am 31 years old and in 1998 my son was born. When he was born I was 20 years old. At that time I was into drugs but not the big drugs and I mentally and physically abused my son's Mom and when the time had come she had to leave me because of the abuse. In 2001 my Mom died. I was 24 years old and when she died I really did get into the big drugs and I started to steal from my family and robbing to get drugs. In the year 2004 I was baptized and I asked Jesus Christ to come into my life but at that time in life I did not let our Lord and our God help me and so in 2005 I got put in prison for 25 years.

Let me tell you that sometimes God puts us in places that we may not like just to let us know that the life we are living is not a good life and that we need to ask God to come into our life. Let me tell you, as of this day our Lord Jesus is in my life and for three years I have been drug free. Let me tell you the best choices anyone can do in life is to put God in it. I tell you this because if he can help me he can help anyone. I know I have to keep God in my life. God bless you,

Hello C.K. The first step in healing is taking responsibility for your own actions and that is what you did in your testimony. I am sorry that your Mom did not live to see your spiritual change, but I am sure that she is very much aware of you from her view in heaven. Your scripture Matthew 6:33 was perfect because that is the only answer to defeating Satan and his cohorts. Seek Christ first and all else will be added to you. Christ said in Revelation 21:5 "I will make all things new" and that is where you are now. You still can be a true father and a true husband even while you are in prison. C.K. Remember its not about you, its about Jesus. Love him and then your family, even if they don't respond. Do not forget them, or annoy them, just love them. If you want to get into God's presence then get out of your own. He will make you new and he will restore that which is lost. It is not enough to say I love Jesus, we have to prove it by the way we love others. God proved His love for us that in while we were still sinners He died for us (Romans 5:8). We will be praying

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

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for you and I will be looking for a praise report from you. Stay in the Word, stay in prayer and stay in His presence.

TEACHING FACING THE GIANTS

We are living in a time when the power of evil threatens to topple our society. We have been told that the foundation of society is the family and the foundation of the family is the father. We are watching both of them being threatened with the curse of extinction. Scripture tells us that the leader of all those that are evil is Satan. In America there are more people in prison than in any other country. We are told over 365 times in the bible to not be afraid. Satan relies very heavily on his weapon of fear. God tells us in Genesis 15:1 that He will defend us and He will bless us. Many times in our lives we face tremendous trials and it is there we look to the Lord for help. The Lord says, when you call on me I will answer: I will be with you in trouble, and rescue you and honor you (Psalm 91:14-15). Christ breaks the chains of fear and rejection like a hammer that smashes the rocks (Jeremiah 23:29). Christmas is a time of great joy and, also for many people, especially those in prison, a time of loneliness and of fear. We can face these evil giants by remembering that Christ Himself promises to each one of us that He will never leave us, in fact, He will always be with you even in the most lonely darkened cell, even to the end of the world (Matthew 28:20).

PRO-LIFE

The President-elect has promised that his first official act will be the signing of the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA).

1. FOCA will do away with state laws on parental involvement, on partial birth abortion, and on all other protections.
2. FOCA will compel taxpayer funding of abortions.
3. FOCA will force faith-based hospitals and healthcare facilities to perform abortions.
(source: fightfoca.com)
4. FOCA will remove the state's ability to enact certain laws on their own medical establishments.
5. FOCA will remove a doctor's liberty of choice in refusing to kill an unborn child, and Christian doctors will be forced *by law* to perform an abortion on any woman that desires to do so.

Brothers and sisters, we need to begin praying fervently that our President-elect chooses life and not death for babies in the womb. We must do all we can to defend the life of the baby. If we sit back and do nothing we will lose our strength. We are a country that is one nation under God. Being under God means being Pro-life.

Proverbs 24:10 says, "If you remain indifferent in time of adversity, your strength will depart from you." And verse 11 states, "Rescue those who are being dragged to death, and from those tottering to execution withdraw not." We can rescue the babies being brought in the doctors office from execution by praying and fasting. Take one day a week and fast and pray the whole day for all those in office to convert to pro-life. In John 10:10 Jesus states, "A thief



comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I come so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." Praying the Rosary at abortion centers or in front of Planned Parenthood Centers is very powerful, praying the rosary in your cell is also very powerful. Pray for Our Ladies intercession. Ask the saints to intercede also. Volunteer your time at Culture of Life Family Services or at centers in your area who promote life.

We do not belong to this world, we belong to the kingdom of God. When Pilate was interrogating Jesus, Jesus answered him, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants (would) be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here."

UPDATE

STRONG WOMAN OF GOD SEMINAR, JANUARY 10, 2009 – 12:30-4:30 - FOLLOWED BY CONFESSION AND MASS AT 5:30 – St. Mary's Church Hall, 13th and Broadway, Escondido CA 92025

"Draw Your Strength from the Lord and from His Mighty Power" Ephesians 6:10

Subjects to be covered: Role of Women, Living in God's Will, Blessings of NFP, Openness to Life, Infertility, Eating Disorders & Mother/Daughter relationships and Depression, Darkness to Hope. All women welcome. RSVP – PO Box 2129 Escondido CA 92033

We want to thank all those who sent us Christmas cards and gifts for Christmas and most especially for those who donate their time and money to help us continue in this powerful ministry to families and those in prison.

We are now coming into a New Year. When Jesus fell in the Passion of the Christ and His mother, Mary, came up to him, he said, "Behold, I make all things new." Yes, my brothers and sisters, do not hold onto the past but be transformed by the renewal of your mind through the word of God and you will find the peace that passes all understanding. Be reconciled with one another, receive the sacraments as often as you can and love one another as He has loved you. Keep your eyes on Jesus and follow Him. You are a new creation.

We want to wish you a Happy Blessed New Year by making Christ your hope, your life, your all in all.

Your brother and sister in Christ.

Deacon Ken & Marie



HAPPY NEW YEAR!