



St. Dismas Guild

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

www.stdismas.org January 2012

Our Scripture for the New Year 2012 is from Jeremiah 29:11-14, "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. When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you, says the Lord, and I will change your lot;" We say to all of you, do not lose hope. God is faithful. "No trial has come to you but what is human. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength, but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

PRO-LIFE

On January 22, 1967 we adopted our second child who we named Dan. We have been so blessed by the mother who had the courage to give her child life. We have three adopted children and to all three Mom's we say thank you, yes, thank you from the bottom of our heart. You chose life, not only for the baby in your womb but for us who chose to give life to our children through the Word of God. We have a hunger to know, love, and serve the God who has given us life and we have passed that on to our children, your children. They will always be your children. As we prepare for the 39th anniversary of the legalization of abortion we appeal to those whose life has not gone the way you expected, give us your baby. Mother Teresa opened her heart to the babies who were about to be aborted and took them in. We, at COLFS and St. Dismas Guild, are here to help you to find a home for your baby if you choose adoption. We are God's children if we are led by the Spirit of God. Romans 8:14-15 says, "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, 'Abba, Father!'" Yes, those who accept Jesus into their hearts He gave power to become children of God. Give your life to Christ this day and live as He chooses for you to live not as you choose. His way brings peace and joy into your life. Become that little child again and let Him lead you. He has grasped you and your baby by the right hand. In Jesus' love, Deacon Ken & Marie

TESTIMONY

By AP

Dear Ken and Marie, My name is AP. I've been in Prison for 8 months with 7 more to go before I go to a parole home. Well, I'm doing bad. I got no support from family; I guess they just got tired of me coming back to prison. So I made a choice to turn to God for help and well, at first I was not taking it so seriously at all. I've been receiving the Testimonies every month and I've been reading them and it is wonderful how people turn their lives over to God. Well, I want to be one of those people. I'm tired of being bad. Also I guess a lot of me decided to change because the mother of my baby left me and that really hurt me a lot.

Sorry I haven't written earlier than now. Even though I'm in prison, I feel like I needed this punishment and I deserve it. I'm a lot happier now; I even started to go to counseling groups for my anger issues. I'm being a lot more humble toward other inmates and let me tell you I feel like God actually forgave my sins and that he is real and wants to help me.

I've also been trying to get other brothers to join me and I encourage inmates to give it a try. They have nothing to lose but gain happiness. I know in my heart that my parents will be happy for me. I said goodbye to the gangs and I accepted Jesus in my life and life is beautiful. It is a struggle to move forward every day and I pray every night. I really want to say thank you for everything; the Testimonies are great and I really enjoy the book "Secrets of a Happy Family". It helped me a lot. Thank you so much for helping people around the world. Well, I'll close for now. I'll write soon. I'm 24 years old with 2 kids, single and ready to move on with life with Our Lord by my side. God bless you. Keep us in your prayers and I'll do likewise. If it is not too much to ask, I would like a Bible and some pamphlets. Do you think I can get them please? Thank you. Sincerely, AP

We are sending you the literature you requested. Thank you for sharing your testimony. Stay close to the Lord. God never sees anyone as a bad person. He only sees a person needing help and He is there to help you. AP, know that you can do anything you need to do in life through Christ who is your strength (Philippians 4:13) Getting out of the gangs is a major step towards conversion. Gang members depend on one another. The only one we put dependence on is God.

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

(We want to thank everyone who sent Christmas Cards, good wishes and prayers. For many inmates, stamps are hard to come by and when you use them to send us a card, it's very encouraging. Some of you referred to St. Dismas as your family - it's very touching.)

Dear St. Dismas

I would like to thank you for your newsletters you send me. I enjoy getting them. I want to ask you if you could pray for my soon to be ex-wife. Let me tell you the story. I was in Wicca and had my own coven and was doing pills. My wife and I had a baby on the way and I went to jail on an allegation and my probation was revoked. I got 2 ½ years in prison. When I was in jail, my wife wanted a divorce and when my brother got out of prison, she went with him even though we are still married. After my daughter was born in September 2010, she got pregnant with my brothers kid and we're still married. Now they talk bad about me and keep my daughter from me. I just wish they would soften their hearts and let me know how my daughter is doing. Please pray for her, thank you. I also have these scary tattoos on my arms that someday I want to get rid of. I was baptized Catholic, made my First Holy Communion and was an altar boy. I went to CCD and made my Confirmation. I just regret the tattoos and feel bad that I ever got them because now I'm a child of God and I plan on staying that way when I get out in 9 months. I'm going to be part of my Church and help people in need all around the world. I don't hate my brother or my wife; I still love her and forgive them. I'm not a sex offender; I just want to see my daughter. Can you please send me the Bread of Life? Your brother in Christ, AD

Dear AD, We certainly will pray for you and your family. Any involvement in witchcraft must be renounced as also delving into drugs, etc. We sent you the Bread of Life Bible Study and that will help you to deal with the problems you are undergoing. Life sometimes is not fair. We will pray with you that God will soften the hearts of those who are keeping you from your daughter. We would suggest that you request a

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

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Catholic priest and that you go to confession for delving in witchcraft, drugs, etc. Once you confess from the heart those sins are forgiven and thrown into the deepest part of the sea. Once you get your life in right order other things start to go well for you. You may not see it at first but as Matthew 6:33 states "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides." God bless you AD.

Hi. My name is DB. I'm 26 years old. I have been married for 8 years this past June. I have 4 kids with my wife, 3 girls and 1 son that we had a year ago. My wife left me just before I came to prison. I am serving a 9 month to 5 year sentence for my 2nd DUI. I have been away from the Church and God for way too long now. I was brought up Roman Catholic. I went to church before it closed. I really don't know why I have been away from the Church as long as I have. I have never doubted Him. I even have an uncle who is a priest. I know I have been mad at God for a long time now and I have been blaming Him I guess. My Dad & Mom did not want me and put me in foster care when I was 10 years old but kept my brothers and my sister. I was the only one out of 7 of us. I know it was not His fault but I was mad and still am. It just seems like bad things happen to me even now, with my wife leaving me and me going to prison. The thing now is I'm finding it hard to be mad at Him anymore. I'm sorry for taking up all your time but even now I have no one to write me. At least I'm finding God again. I don't have any money but if there is anything you can send me that may help out that would be a blessing. Thank you for your time and God bless. DB

DB, We sent you a bible, bible study, small catechism and the book When I was in Prison. We will be sending you Secrets of a Happy Family which is the biblical role of the members of the family. In order to be a good husband and father you have to learn what your biblical role is. I have said this many times before that the man is the problem 99 and 9/10th of the time in a marriage because of his lack of spiritual direction and covering that he is called to give to his wife and children. Men are the problem and men are the solution. Learn your biblical role and who your real Father is. Once you learn that God is love and sent His Son Jesus to die on a cross for your sins and then sent His Spirit to comfort, teach and guide you to all truth your whole life will take a turn, you will know how to be a husband who cherishes his wife and directs his children to Jesus. God will heal you of the rejection you experienced as a child and always remember that the Our Father prayer states in it, "...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;" Make the choice today to forgive your Mom & Dad for putting you in a foster home and forgive your heavenly Father for allowing it. Once you make the choice to forgive and renounce your anger God will heal the hurt and the feelings that have kept you in bondage. God be with you.

Hello Deacon, It is an inspiration knowing real inner transformation is possible through the love of God and that love passes through us to those around us. As a former Satanist, I know first hand the power love can have on the soul. Through my dark years, God was with me and now I am with Him. I don't feel alone anymore and am thankful for the hardships in my life that made me realize that loving each other as God loves us is what is important above all other things. If we all did that, this world would be a better place. If I can make this change from who I was, anyone can. Thanks for the literature and God bless you all. Peace and love, TB

Thank you TB for sharing the love of God. God can and will turn the hardest criminal around just because He loves us. The problem with most people is accepting His love and forgiveness. When you accept the love of God you no longer do things that are against His commandments. Yes, TB, this

world would be a better place if we loved one another as Christ has loved us. God bless you.

St. Dismas Guild, I would like to start this by wishing you and your congregation a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I also want to thank you for the Catholic studies and the correspondence; it was/is truly appreciated. With that said...I'm afraid that I can no longer receive your newsletter. Not because of any Institutional reasons but rather simply because I can't stomach it anymore. I can't keep reading about how these child molesters have 'turned over a new leaf' because they've "found forgiveness in Christ". I know I shouldn't judge – I'm a criminal myself. But even I have standards. Pedophiles and Rapists don't deserve forgiveness! I know I'm being hateful but so be it. This is just how I feel. I can't/won't change what's in my heart. Once again, thanks for the literature. I wish you and yours the best of luck. JE

JE, Isn't it great that we don't live our life based on feelings but we base it on faith. Forgiveness is not an option it is commanded. Matthew 6:14-15 states, "If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions." These, JE, are Jesus' words. These are pretty heavy words. Forgiveness is a choice. We pray you will make the choice to forgive others so you can receive the forgiveness of Christ in your heart. We will pray for you.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all our benefactors for your love, prayers and financial support. Just to let you know where your donations have gone to this year we put together a report of some of our expenses for year 2011:

Bread of Life Bible Study – 1,355 books - \$20,108.20
Pan de Vida – Printing Approx – 400 - \$3544.59
Bibles - Eng & Sp 1400 - \$5,208.82
Catechism of the Catholic Church - \$984.00
Basic Catechism of the Catholic Church-900 - \$648.00
Newsletter:
Printing, \$4,577.16 Postage & Mailing, \$9,900.00

These are just a few of our expenses. Know that your donation has gone into purchasing these materials or in paying postage, etc. so that inmates and the poorest of the poor can receive these materials free of charge. We have no paid employees. All the work done here is by faithful volunteers who pray for those receiving these materials. We have truly been blessed.

St. Dismas Guilds Mission is 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.

The Activities of **St. Dismas Guild** include religious education through the use of bibles, bible study, religious pamphlets, the New Catechism of the Catholic Church, encyclicals, retreats, seminars, teachings, spiritual counseling, and monthly newsletter; with the understanding that the Holy Spirit is our Teacher working through the teaching authority of the Church. "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation." Mark 16:15

Thank you again for your support to this ministry. We are blessed to be a part of the family of God and have brothers and sisters like you.

HAPPY AND BLESSED 2012

In Jesus' love,
Deacon Ken & Marie