

St. Dismas Chaplet, the Good Thief



On March 25, the Catholic Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Annunciation. March 25, however, is also listed as the feast day of St. Dismas, who was the good thief crucified with Jesus. He is the Patron Saint of Prisoners (especially condemned), Funeral directors, and Repentant thieves. Today we offer a small biography of St. Dismas, a beautiful saint for the Lenten season, as we meditate upon and ask for God's mercy.

The only substantial record we have of this man comes from the Gospel of Luke (other Gospels note that Jesus was crucified between two revolutionaries, but do not elaborate). As Luke tells us, Jesus was crucified with two thieves. As the three condemned were dying, one taunted Jesus along with the crowd, telling him, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us."

The other thief rebuked him, saying, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus told him, "This

day you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).

The Christian community took seriously Jesus' words here that this good thief was saved, and honors him as a saint. Dismas' response to Jesus is a good articulation of steps in conversion away from sin: he came to an honest awareness of his sin and turned away from it, seeking Jesus as the source of eternal life.

Like other personalities close to the story of Jesus, we know little about Dismas. The Christian community constructed a story to fill in this gap, including his name—in some traditions, he is known as Titus or Zoathan. The most popular name, Dismas, was adopted from the Greek word for "sunset" or "death," and began to be used in stories dating from the fourth century. One legend says that Dismas and his fellow thief held up Joseph and Mary when they were fleeing to Egypt with the child Jesus. Dismas is said to have been moved to compassion and bribed his companion to let the Holy Family pass safely.

The relics of St. Dismas rest in the reliquary chapel, including a piece of Dismas' cross. His image is used here with permission from Catholic.org.



Biography taken from

<http://faith.nd.edu/s/1210/faith/interior.aspx?sid=1210&gid=609&pgid=13955&cid=28930&ecid=28930&crd=0&calpgid=61&calcid=53508>

The Chaplet of St. Dismas, the Good Thief

History:

This chaplet is taken from, and based on, the conversation between Jesus and the Good Thief, Dismas, as it is reported in Luke 23:35.

Medals/Beads:

M - O ooo O ooo O ooo O ooo O ooo O ooo - X

On the Medal Pray

Saint Dismas, you were closer to Jesus in His agony on the cross than even His beloved mother, Mary. Because of your sincere and open confession of your sins to Jesus as you hung beside Him on Calvary, and because of your true sorrow and repentance for them, you alone, of all the great penitent saints, were directly canonized by Christ Himself and you were assured of a place in Heaven with Him on that very day. Good Saint Dismas, now in paradise with the Lord, I ask you to intercede for me this day as I express my sincere sorrow and repentance for my sins. I ask the Lord to forgive me and grant me the grace of perseverance so that I will never desert Him again and at the end of my life, may I hear from Him the same words that He spoke to you: "This day you will be with Me in Paradise." Amen.

1st Set:

O St. Dismas, we come to you for God's Guidance, now that we are your Brothers/Sisters in Christ Jesus. Pray for us from your heavenly post, that we may believe and receive God's Grace, thus becoming true to your "call from The Cross:" to have a Holy Fear of God.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be ...

2nd Set:

Pray for me, that I too, will have the heartfelt courage to rebuke my fellow Brothers/Sisters for not fearing God, while acknowledging my own guilt and helpless state.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be ...

3rd Set:

Pray that I willingly concede my need for repentance and restorative justice. Just as you confessed faith in the innocence of Christ Jesus, help me to confess my need for faith, hope, charity/love, and truth in Jesus and in the Catholic Church.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be ...

4th Set:

Pray that I learn to give Catholic witness of Jesus as my Lord, and to proclaim my faith in the triumph of God's Kingdom over my past, present, and future actions.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be ...

5th Set:

Pray that I undergo forgiveness and mercy from Our Lord Jesus and that I will clearly experience heartfelt sorrow for my sins and my hurt-filled actions, never to do them again.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be ...

6th Set:

We ask you now, Inspired St. Dismas, to pray that we will always be proud to proclaim ourselves as true Brothers and Sisters in and for your holy bravery; and that we too, at the last hour, may hear the words Our Lord spoke: "Amen I say to you, this day you will be with Me in Paradise."

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be ...

On the Crucifix Pray

My crucified Jesus, wash me with Your most precious blood; look upon me as the good thief who hung on the cross next to You at Calvary. A sinner paying for his crimes but recognizes Your divinity and begs for mercy and forgiveness and asks, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Dear Lord, look upon me like the good thief and I should be so lucky and full of peace. Amen. Saint Dismas, Pray for us.

This chaplet was lovingly taken from:

<http://chapletsrosariesandlitanies.blogspot.com/2011/03/st-dismas-chaplet-good-thief.html>