

Catholic Social Services
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Apostolate of Suffering

United together in our suffering

Founded in 1926 by Clara M. Tiry, the Apostolate of Suffering seeks to unite all sufferers in a spiritual union. Its purpose is to assure the sick and the afflicted that their lives are not useless, that by patient bearing of pain they can help spread the Kingdom of God on earth. It aims to promote among its members a childlike abandonment to God's Holy Will. Members offer their sufferings for:

- ♦The conversion of sinners
- ♦The salvation of the dying
- ♦The release of poor souls from Purgatory
- ♦Increase of vocations the priesthood and religious life
- ♦The success of missionary work
- ♦The sanctification of priests
- ♦The reparation for sins committed against the Blessed Eucharist

Membership is open to the sick or to those who, though able to work, are afflicted with some disease, ailment, or infirmity that causes suffering. Men and women, priests and religious, young and old, are eligible for membership, as are patrons of the sick. Spiritual benefits of membership include:

- ♦Holy Masses are offered every month for the members and their intentions
- ♦A share in the annual novena of Holy Masses and other novenas during the year
- ♦A memento in the daily Holy Mass of the Spiritual Director and other priests
- ♦All members share in each other's prayers and the merits performed according to the spirit of the Apostolate
- ♦Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II granted his blessing to the Apostolate and the members

For more information on becoming a member of the Apostolate of Suffering, fill out the form below and return it in the enclosed remit envelope.

Yes, I would like more information on membership in the Apostolate of Suffering!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Via Satoris

WAY OF THE SOWER

April 2010

Volume 16, Issue 4

St. Carpus, St. Papyrus and Companion Martyrs

Generations of "spiritual children"

About ten years ago, I talked to an elderly religious sister in a nursing home in St. Catherine, Kentucky. As a young girl she joined the Dominicans and spent her life teaching as a religious. I will never forget our conversation about having children. As a religious, she lived the life of a consecrated virgin and therefore never gave birth to any children in the natural order as married women do. With a twinkle in her eye she said, "As a religious, I spiritually generated more children than I could have if I would have married."

Around the year 250, Carpus, bishop of Gurdos, was apprehended along with his deacon Papyrus. They both were brought in front of the governor Valerius and asked if they were Christians- at a time when Christianity was outlawed. Those caught and who later refused to apostatize were tortured and put to death.

When Bishop Carpus was asked to offer incense to the pagan gods he said, "I am a Christian. I worship Christ the Son of God, who came in these latter times to save us and who has delivered us from the snares of the devil. I do not sac-

rifice to idols like these." He was then strung up, flayed and burnt at the stake. Just before his final gasp, he saw the glory of God in heaven.

Next it was Papyrus' turn. He responded similarly as his bishop. When asked if he had children he replied, "Yes, by the mercy of God." When pointed out that he meant having children according to the faith he elaborated, "I have children according to God in every city and province." He was then tortured and killed in a similar manner as his bishop. Next, Agathonica (the sister of Papyrus) and their servant Agathodorus were martyred as well.

One must never forget that when we are the instrument of a conversion, bringing one to Christ, we are spiritually generating a new son or daughter. The most powerful way of doing this is how we live our lives, by our loving example first, followed by our words. This is how the religious sister mentioned earlier generated countless souls throughout her life in the spiritual order. Those who support us do so because they are children of the Most High God and through their example; they too are generating children some of whom they will meet in this life, but many in the life to come.

When meditating on the sacrifice of Saints Carpus, Papyrus, Agathonica and Agathodorus, whose feast day is April 13, let us recall the words of Papyrus regarding the spiritual generation of offspring for the Lord. Let us live lives as Christians not only in name but in fact!

 **Catholic Social Services**
of Southern Nebraska

Agency Update- April 2010

A remarkable turnaround

Dear Friend in Christ:

Recently, a former client made the deans list at one of the colleges in southern Nebraska. What is remarkable is that not long ago, this single mother was on the verge of homelessness escaping domestic violence. Now instead of wondering where her next meal is coming from or where she will be able to safely rest her head at night with her children, she is looking forward to graduation and a better job. These are the sorts of successes that are made possible because of the generosity of our benefactors.



Please consider helping us spiritually with your prayers, materially with the donation of household items, and financially with a cash donation according to your means so we can continue helping needy individuals and families like this single mother mentioned earlier.

Please know that we will keep you, your family and intentions in our prayers!

Sincerely yours in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ during this Easter Season!

Fr. Christopher Kubat
Fr. Christopher Kubat
Executive Director

St. Gianna Women's Homes

Construction begins on new facility

On a recent brisk March day, Bishop Bruskewitz, Father Kubat and staff and board members gathered to break ground on the new 24-unit St. Gianna Women's Homes. The secure apartment building will be comprised of 24 one-, two- and three-bedroom units that will house women and children escaping domestic abuse and the pressure to abort. The facility will also include a chapel, daycare center, kitchen, exercise facility, commons area, and a small three-bedroom cloister for the Marian Sisters who will serve as caseworkers for the women living in the facility. St. Gianna Women's Homes will enable CSS to provide safe and clean temporary housing for at-risk women from across the diocese. The program will accept women of any age, religion or ethnicity who are being threatened by domestic abuse or who are being pressured into abortion by partners, parents, finances or other factors. Construction of the new apartment building for St. Gianna Women's Homes will take about 10 months.

Currently, all we can do is help a woman find an apartment, furnish it, pay the first month's rent, fill the cupboards with food and help the woman find a job. Often we must resort to putting someone up in a motel, which is cost-prohibitive. Recently, CSS helped a woman from south-central Nebraska who was living with her children in a shed equipped with just a space heater. CSS is in desperate need for more housing to accommodate these women in crisis. All told, it will take \$3 million to build the new apartment building, and somewhere between \$200,000 and \$300,000 to run it each year. For that reason, fundraising efforts for St. Gianna Women's Homes will be ongoing. For instance, the "First Friday Fish Fry" dinners at the main CSS building in Lincoln at 23rd and O Streets will return on Friday, May 7th. All proceeds from the fish fries, held on the first Friday of each month outside of Lent, go towards the support of St. Gianna Women's Homes. Also, a new event called "That Takes The Cake!" a Frosted Fundraiser for St. Gianna Women's Homes, will be held on Saturday, May 8th. More information on this event can be found in the ad on the next page of this newsletter.



Sr. Jacqueline Darner helps break ground for St. Gianna Women's Homes facility

Our Catholic Culture

The Pentecost novena

The period between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost Sunday is a time of preparation for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This time is known as the Pentecost Novena. Pentecost ends the Easter season and celebrates the powerful arrival of the Holy Spirit upon the first community of those who believed Jesus was the Son of God. This is why Pentecost is seen as the birth of the Church. The following novena (courtesy of EWTN) can be prayed beginning on Ascension Thursday which this year is Thursday, May 13th.

HOLY SPIRIT NOVENA

Dearest Holy Spirit, confiding in Your deep, personal love for me, I am making this novena for the following request, if it be Your Holy Will to grant it: (mention your request).

Teach me, Divine Spirit, to know and seek my last end; grant me the holy fear of God; grant me true contrition and patience.

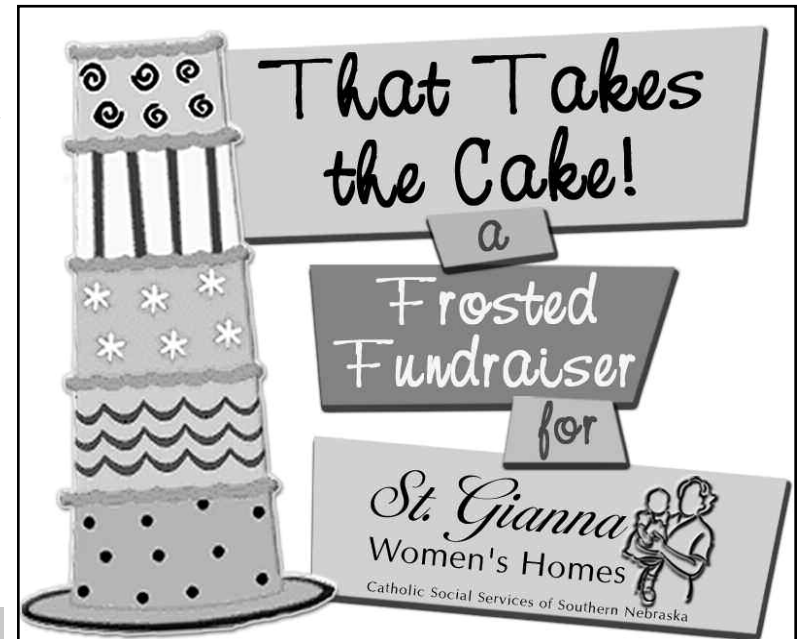
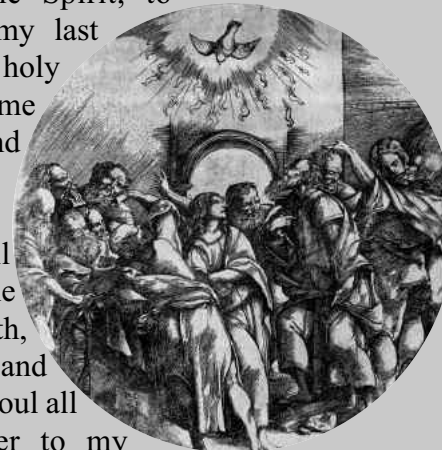
Do not let me fall into sin. Give me an increase of faith, hope and charity, and bring forth in my soul all the virtues proper to my state in life.

Make me a faithful disciple of Jesus and an obedient child of the Church. Give me efficacious grace sufficient to keep the Commandments and to receive the Sacraments worthily.

Give me the four Cardinal Virtues, Your Seven Gifts, Your Twelve Fruits.

Raise me to perfection in the state of life to which You have called me and lead me through a happy death to everlasting life.

I ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.



Saturday, May 8th, 2010 ♦ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Pius X High School ♦ 60th & A Street, Lincoln

Catholic Social Services announces its first-ever *That Takes the Cake! A Frosted Fundraiser for St. Gianna Women's Homes*. Area bakers and celebrities will have their most creative works on display vying for your vote for best decorated cake.

♦VOTE!

Come out and vote for your favorites- vote as often as you like for as many cakes as you like- for just \$1 per vote!

♦SILENT AUCTION!

All cakes entered will be auctioned off during the silent auction, so you can also place a bid on all of your favorite frosted creations!

♦CAKE WALK & BAKE SALE!

Take part in the St. Gianna's Cake Walk or Bake Sale and walk away with a tasty treat just in time for Mother's Day!

♦LET THEM EAT CAKE!

Enjoy complimentary cake and refreshments courtesy of Russ's Market and Super Saver! Plus, free face painting for the kids!

♦ADMISSION IS \$5 PER PERSON,
\$25 PER FAMILY

Tickets are available at Catholic Social Services (2241 O Street) during regular business hours or at the door the day of the event.

For more information, contact Deb at 217-0655 or 489-7326.

