

Catholic Social Services
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Via Satoris

WAY OF THE SOWER

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Blessed John of Salerno

The source of his strength

John Guarna was born in 1190 in the town of Salerno. During his time studying at Bologna he made the acquaintance of St. Dominic. John was so moved after meeting him that he joined the order. Recognizing the talents, intelligence and holiness of his new young member after a period of study, he was ordained to the priesthood. A short time later, he was made superior in a new community of thirteen friars in Etruria although the youngest of the group. Eventually the new community moved to San Pancrazio. It was here that a woman under the influence of the evil one sought to entrap him under the guise of asking for confession. Through his prayers and penances she definitively turned away from evil and returned to Christ and the practice of the sacraments.

Shortly after this another demon spoke out during an exorcism of someone else and exclaimed, "Only he who was unburned in the fire can drive me out," referring to the prior incident with the woman mentioned above. After sending for Blessed John, the exorcism was successfully completed.

His other famous gift was the ability to read souls. Like St. John Vianney and St. Pio, he was able to point out the sins and failings in penitents during the reception of the sacrament of Reconciliation and in spiritual direction.

He also, at the direction of Pope Gregory IX, successfully converted many heretics. This was not without much suffering and ridicule. Through it all he refused to bow under the threats of violence and endured many insults.

It was ultimately the Blessed Sacrament which was the source of his strength and enabled him to live a virtuous life in a heroic manner. After living a long life he was noted to have said on his deathbed, "No action requires so much care, devotion and purity as the reception of holy communion." Blessed John, the first disciple of St. Dominic died in the year 1272 at the age of 83. He was beatified by Pope Pius VI in 1783. His feast day is celebrated on August 9.

May we all learn this most valuable lesson, for it is easy to take reception of the Blessed Sacrament for granted. Let us be reminded that even though it appears to us as bread, it really is the Lord of Life Who gave His life for us. It is my prayer that all of us will receive and adore our Eucharistic King as often as we can so we too can do the will of God in our thoughts, words and deeds so we can join Blessed John and all the angels and saints in heaven at the end of our earthly sojourn. Blessed John of Salerno, pray for us!!

 **Catholic Social Services**
of Southern Nebraska

2241 "O" Street • Lincoln, NE 68510 • (800) 981-8242 • www.csisus.org

You are cordially invited to attend the 2011 Bountiful Harvest Banquet: "Unless the Lord builds the house..."

For the benefit of Catholic Social Services
Sunday, September 11th, 2011
City Auditorium Hastings, Nebraska
Social Hour- 5:00 pm Dinner & Program- 6:00 pm
Cost- \$50/person

Come celebrate with us! We promise a delicious meal, great company, and a wonderful program honoring the renovation and moving volunteers. If you are interested in attending, please cut out the registration form and return it with your payment no later than August 31, 2011.



2011 Bountiful Harvest Banquet Reservation Acknowledgment

Yes, I/We will attend. Enclosed is \$ _____ to reserve _____ places at the Bountiful Harvest Banquet (\$50/person \$100/couple)

Name of attendee(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Day phone: _____ Parish: _____

No, I/we are unable to attend this year. Please accept the enclosed donation of \$ _____ for Catholic Social Services.

Please make checks payable to Catholic Social Services. Mail this form, along with names of attendees (if attending) and appropriate fee by August 31, 2011 to Catholic Social Services 333 West 2nd Hastings, NE 68901

Agency Update- August 2011

Growing closer to God through His Son

Hello from Catholic Social Services! Recently, a poor man on oxygen due to chronic lung disease came to our office for help. The heat and humidity was taking its toll. He could hardly breathe under these conditions. He was in trouble because he lacked the resources to purchase a window air conditioner for his small apartment. Because of our generous benefactors, we were able to buy him one. He left our office elated.

I hope that you are able to read the short summary of this month's patron, Blessed John of Salerno. May we too grow closer to God the Father through His Son in the Holy Spirit with the frequent reception of the sacraments of Penance and the Most Holy Eucharist so we too can love God with all of our hearts and our neighbor as ourselves.

There are many other stories I could share. Please support us with your prayers, materially with items around the house not needed and financially with a cash donation according to your means so we can continue to help individuals and families in need across southern Nebraska.

Please be reminded that we at Catholic Social Services will keep you, your family and intentions in our daily prayers!

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,



Fr. Christopher Kubat
Executive Director

Our Catholic Culture

Celebrating the Saints of August

Throughout the centuries, the Church has honored saints by reading their names during the Eucharistic Prayer and by celebrating their feast days on its annual calendar. The month of August features a number of saints who have greatly impacted the Catholic faith throughout the centuries. Some of these saints include:

♦**St. Alphonsus Mari Liguori, August 1st:** Bishop, Doctor of the Church, and the founder of the Redemptorist Congregation.

♦**St. John Vianney, August 4th:** Ordained in 1815 and three years later was assigned to the parish of Ars-sur-Formans, France. Crowds came to hear him preach, and to make their reconciliation because of his reputation with penitents; by 1855 there were 20,000 pilgrims a year to Ars.

♦**St. Edith Stein (St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross), August 9th:** Converted from Judaism to Catholicism in Cologne, Germany. She became a Carmelite nun in 1934. When the Nazis invaded the Netherlands, she and her sister Rose, also a convert to Catholicism, were captured and sent to the concentration camp at Auschwitz where they died.



St. Maximilian Kolbe

♦**St. Clare, August 11th:** A close friend of St. Francis of Assisi, she found the Order of Poor Ladies (Poor Clares) and led it for 40 years.

♦**St. Maximilian Kolbe, August 14th:** Born in 1894 in Poland and became a Franciscan. After the Nazi invasion in 1939, he was imprisoned and released for a time. In 1941 he was arrested again and sent to Auschwitz. On July 31, 1941, in reprisal for one prisoner's escape, ten men were chosen to die. Fr. Kolbe offered himself in place of a young husband and father. He was the last to die, enduring two weeks of starvation and thirst.

♦**St. Pius X, August 21st:** Chosen 257th pope in 1903, taking the name Pius X. He issued decrees on early Communion at age 7 instead of 12. He also advocated frequent and even daily Communion and reformed the liturgy.

♦**St. Monica, August 27th:** Mother of two, one of whom is Saint Augustine of Hippo. She prayed constantly for the conversion of her husband (who converted on his death bed), and of her son (who converted after a wild life).

Social Services

CSS Food Pantry requests continue to greatly exceed supply

Imagine the resources need to feed a town roughly smaller than Beatrice but larger than Lexington. Now imagine struggling to meet that need, a need that is growing each month. This is the challenge faced by the Catholic Social Services St. Francis food pantry in Lincoln. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, the St. Francis Food Pantry in Lincoln provided 10,302 persons- a number that would be a city smaller than Beatrice, but larger than Lexington-enough food for one week. This equates to 205,150 pounds of food. The mobile food pantry based out of Lincoln also served 8,658 individuals in 11 communities in Southeastern Nebraska.

The St. Anthony Food Pantry in Hastings also provides a week's worth of groceries per person per pantry order for families or individuals in need. In 2010, the St. Anthony Food Pantry provided pantries to 1,578 families, a total of 4,960 individuals. The value of those food pantries was \$149,266.00. The mobile food pantry based out of the Hastings office provided food to families in Sutton, Superior, Harvard and several communities in Western Nebraska.

The need for food pantries continues to grow, plus this time of year we see a seasonal drop in donations. As you can see from the photo below, the demand can often be difficult to meet. The food pantries that we distribute generally contain milk, eggs, potatoes, canned items and various dry goods. Please help us meet this growing need by donating these items to our St. Francis Food Pantry in Lincoln or St. Anthony Food Pantry in Hastings. Or you may send in a monetary donation in the enclosed envelope and designate it towards our food pantry. God bless you for your help.

