

Catholic Social Services
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Via Satoris

Special Edition

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Way of the Sower

Latin for "Way of the Sower", Via Satoris is a unique program that gives you the opportunity to assist Catholic Social Services in bringing Christ's healing love to the suffering. Your prayers and sacrifices strengthen our staff, those we serve and fellow Via Satoris members. As a member, you will benefit from:

- ◆ Having your prayer intentions anonymously remembered with other members in a special Via Satoris Mass.
- ◆ You will receive Father Kubat's monthly meditation containing a reflection, a holy card, and a feature on the Saint of the Month, a saint whose feast we celebrate that particular month.
- ◆ The greatest benefit of this program is that you become part of a diocesan-wide network, united in prayer, and dedicated to building the Mystical Body of Christ throughout southern Nebraska.

To become a member of Via Satoris, just send in the enclosed remit envelope complete with your name, address and prayer intention.

Saint Melania

"Real lights of the Church"

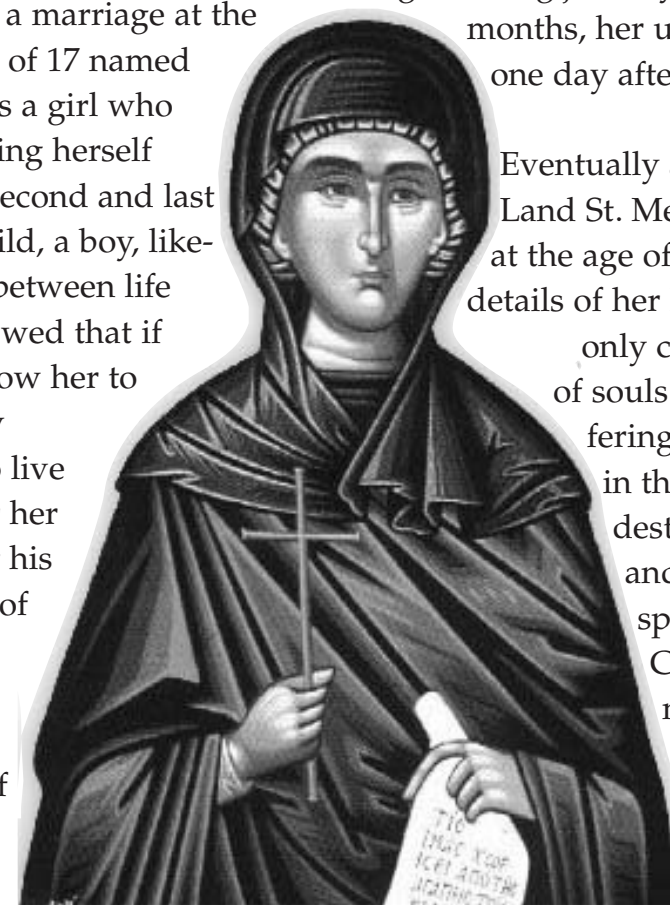
St. Melania was born in Rome to wealthy Christian parents in the year 383. Her maternal grandfather was a pagan priest while her paternal grandmother was a devout Christian who was involved in the establishment of a monastery in the Holy Land. Growing up in a wealthy family with the pressures of ensuring an heir to the family fortune, her parents forced her into a marriage at the young age of 14 to a youth of 17 named Pinian. Their first child was a girl who died in infancy. Almost dying herself while in labor during her second and last pregnancy, their second child, a boy, likewise died. While hanging between life and death, her husband vowed that if she survived, he would allow her to serve God as she originally wished, as she preferred to live the life of a religious. After her recovery her husband kept his promise and lived the rest of his life in an edifying and holy manner.

St. Melania lived the rest of her life dispersing her vast fortune to help poor and

needy individuals and families. In addition, because of her efforts she won the freedom of thousands of slaves in the empire. While in Africa, she met the great St. Augustine of Hippo who was so impressed with her practice of heroic virtue he called her and her husband "real lights of the Church."

She then moved to the Holy Land where she was founded several groups of religious men and women. It was there that her husband died and was buried. It was also during her time in the Holy Land she received word that her pagan uncle would be visiting Constantinople. Through her efforts after making this long journey during the winter months, her uncle died in her arms just one day after his baptism.

Eventually after returning to the Holy Land St. Melania died in the year 439 at the age of 56. From studying the details of her life, it is evident that her only concern was the salvation of souls and alleviation of the suffering of Jesus Christ who lives in the poor, the needy and the destitute. May the example and prayers of St. Melania spark the same love for Jesus Christ who lives in our neighbors, especially those who are less fortunate than ourselves. St. Melania, pray for us!



Helping us alleviate the suffering

As I sat down to write these words, I did it to the sound of a snow blower and a four wheel drive truck as the snow was being moved. I then recalled the phone calls I received the week prior from worried people who were told they had a shut off notice from the utility company. One is a single young woman with multiple medical problems. I told her we would help her, thanks to people like yourself.

I trust that you've had a chance to read the meditation of this month's saint, St. Melania whose only concern was the alleviation of the suffering of the poor, the needy and the destitute.

Please consider helping us spiritually by your prayers, materially with your material donations and financially according to your means with a cash donation so we can continue to follow the example of the great St. Melania, who loved Jesus in the poor and needy. With the recent cold-spell and snow reminding us that winter is upon us, there will be many requests for help to keep the heat on. With your

financial help, we will be able to help these families keep their utilities going. With your help, we will also be able to provide food pantries to needy families. Some of these families will need counseling services due to the stresses present in their lives. With your assistance, we will be able to help them too. The panel at the far right page of this newsletter lists some of the many needs our Emergency Services program faces this winter. People across the diocese are in need of rent assistance, help with utility bills, assistance with unexpected medical bills, or help with vehicle repairs so they may travel to work each day. Requests for assistance come in to our offices from across southern Nebraska each day.

Please know that we at Catholic Social Services will keep you, your family and intentions in our prayers especially during this most holy time of year, as we routinely pray for our benefactors every morning at 8:30.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,



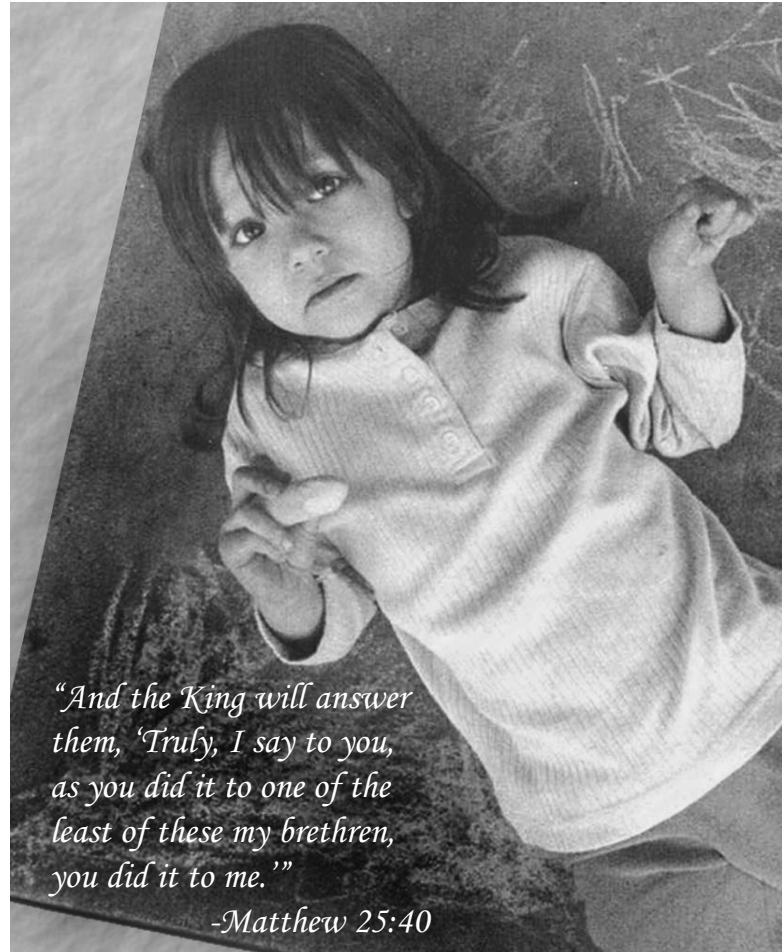
Fr. Christopher Kubat
Executive Director



Volunteers unload food at one of our Rolling Food Pantry stops across the diocese

ST. MELANIA PRAYER FOR PARDON OF FAULTS

I have consecrated my entire self to you, and taking me by your right hand you have led me with your counsel. But in my human frailty I have sinned both in word and deed many times against you, who alone are pure and without sin. Therefore, accept my prayer together with the tears I offer you through your holy ones, the victors in the arena, Purify me, this poor handmaid of yours, so that on departing toward you my passage may be hastened.



"And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'"

-Matthew 25:40

Our Emergency Services Program provides direct emergency relief to those in need of material, financial and spiritual assistance. We always experience a dramatic increase in requests for assistance this time of year. Your donation will assist us in helping with:



Clothing



Help with utility bills



Rent assistance



Vehicle repairs



Medical bills



Food pantry

Yes, Father Kubat! I would like to help those seeking assistance from the Catholic Social Services Emergency Services Program this winter. Please accept my donation of \$ _____.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

___ Yes, I would like to be a member of *Via Satoris*