

Catholic Social Services
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St. Christopher Vehicle Donation Program

Don't trade it... donate it!

The St. Christopher Vehicle Donation Program is in dire need of good, used vehicles. Thinking about trading in 'ol faithful? Donate it instead! Your donated vehicle will either be given to a family or individual in need of dependable transportation, or it will be sold with proceeds going to assist our work with the poor- plus you receive the tax benefits! Contact us to learn more about how your good, used vehicle can serve the needy of southern Nebraska. If you would like to donate your vehicle to the St. Christopher Vehicle Donation Program at Catholic Social Services, just fill out the information below and return it in the enclosed remit envelope. We will then contact you regarding your donation. God bless you and thank you for your generosity!

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Via Satoris

WAY OF THE SOWER

February 2010

Volume 16, Issue 2

Blessed Natalis Pinot

“I will enter
unto the altar
of God”

Because of the severe persecution of the Catholic Church in France during the later part of the 18th century, it is no wonder that during the 19th century in France, numerous bright lights appeared such as St. John Vianney and, most importantly, the Mother of God herself in Lourdes as she appeared to St. Bernadette.

The latter part of the 18th century was the time of the French Revolution, which many have said spawned the Communist Revolution. During the French Revolution, the practice of the Catholic faith was outlawed as countless lay men and women, religious sisters and priests suffered unspeakable tortures and martyrdom. One such individual was Blessed Natalis Pinot.

Natalis was born in 1747 in the town of Angers and became a parish priest with an extraordinary devotion to the sick and dying. In 1788 he was appointed pastor in a little town called Louroux-Beconnais and like St. John Vianney was responsible for the moral transformation of the village and surrounding area.

In the year 1790, the Civil Constitution passed what was known as the Civil Constitution of the Clergy which demanded every priest and bishop take an unlawful oath pledging allegiance to the French government and to break ties to the Vatican and the Holy Father. This forced numerous faithful priests “underground” as they ministered to the faithful in secret or in hiding. One such priest was Father Natalis Pinot.

For some time Fr. Pinot was able to evade capture but was eventually and ironically betrayed by a man to whom he treated with generosity and kindness. He was arrested in his vestments while offering Mass and was never given a chance to change clothes. He was brutally tortured and put to death by the guillotine while still wearing his vestments. Before his death, he was heard saying, “I will enter unto the altar of God; to God who gave joy to my youth.” Fr. Pinot was beatified on October 31, 1926 and his feast day is celebrated on February 21st.

Let us look to Blessed Natalis Pinot and through his prayers and intercession, may we grow in our love for Jesus Christ (who lives in the poor, the sick and the destitute). May we display an intense love of the mystical body of Christ, that is the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, also known as the bride of Christ by St. Paul. Let us likewise be ready to suffer for her even unto death! Blessed Natalis Pinot, pray for us!!

 Catholic Social Services
of Southern Nebraska

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

Agency Update- February 2010

The poor will always be with us

Dear Friend in Christ:

How can I adequately express my gratitude to our generous monthly Via Satoris members who are vital to Catholic Social Services since Jesus said, "The poor you always have with you (Jn 12:8)"?

As Blessed Natalis Pinot had an intense love for the sick and dying so do our patrons. With your help we at CSS assist many adults and children with physical and psychological difficulties. Recently we were able to help a young man suffering from the aftermaths and complications from chemotherapy. What did we do? We were able to help him with his utilities, food, clothing, furniture and medicines that are keeping him alive. This would be impossible without the love and generosity of our monthly Via Satoris members.

Please continue your spiritual support with your prayers and penances, your material support with your in-kind donations and your cash donations according to your means as we continue to help and love Jesus in the sick, poor and needy because "The poor you always have with you (Jn 12:8)".

Please know we at Catholic Social Services will continue to keep you, your family and intentions in our prayers on a daily basis.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,



Fr. Christopher Kubat
Executive Director

Our Catholic Culture

The origins of using ashes in Lent

The custom of placing ashes on heads of people is an ancient penitential rite common among the Hebrew people. Though today Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten season, it was originally not directly connected with Lent. In the 4th century, this practice became popular with churches as part of temporarily excommunicating or expelling public sinners from the community.

By the sixth century, the fast which marked the celebration of Lent was moved back so that it would consist of forty days of actual fasting. This meant that Lent would begin on the Wednesday four days before the first Sunday of Lent. By this time, sinners first confessed their sins privately, then were presented to the bishop and publicly became part of a group of penitents preparing for absolution on Holy Thursday. After the imposition of the ashes, they were expelled from the community, symbolizing the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Eden, with the reminder that death is a punishment for sin: "Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). They lived away from their families and the rest of the community for the forty days of Lent. Dressed in sackcloth and wearing ashes, they were identified as penitents in the congregation and sometimes on the steps of the church. They were required to abstain from meat, alcohol, bathing, haircuts and conducting business transactions. In some areas, penances could last for years or even a lifetime.

During the Middle Ages, focus was placed on personal rather than public sin. Many of the traditions of Ash Wednesday were adopted by all adult members of the parish. Traditions very similar to what is practiced today were observed throughout the church by the 11th century.



CSS Is US!

Trumpet Fest '10 another big success

A Superbowl Sunday tradition continued with Trumpet Fest '10! Held each Super Bowl Sunday over the past few years, Kevin Murray gathers many of the areas finest trumpeters at Pius X High School in Lincoln to perform a benefit concert for Catholic Social Services. Trumpet Fest '10 was held on Sunday, February 7th, and was truly a memorable event. Performers included Kevin Murray, Mac McCune, Dennis Schneider, Darryl White, Dean Haist, Barb Schmit, Debbie Bouffard, Tom Kelly and more. Hats from Murray's for Men of Stature were passed and over \$1,500 was raised for the programs of CSS. Thanks to all those who attended and a special thanks to Kevin Murry for organizing Trumpet Fest '10!

A brief look at

The Church and the French Revolution

At its beginning, the French Revolution was not a movement directed against the Church or clergy of France. In fact, early in the Revolution many of the clergy were in favor of the government becoming more representative of the people. However, no sooner had the Constituent Assembly (the driving force behind the Revolution) established itself than contention for the domination of the State above the Church asserted itself. As the need for money to fund the uprising became apparent, the Assembly decided to end the allowance for the salaries and the upkeep of the clergy and to seize Church property, converting much of it to the support of the new regime.

Gradually the beliefs created by such Revolution leaders as Voltaire were shared by the leaders in the Assembly, leading to the development of the Civil Constitution of the Clergy. This created new dioceses and authorized the voters, whether believers or not, to nominate parish priests and bishops, forbidding the latter to seek confirmation in office from Rome. The Assembly required all priests to swear to this Constitution. Those that refused were exiled or put to death.



Under the Convention (1792 to 1795) which proclaimed the Republic, the Revolution became anti-religious. Catholics were persecuted and many priests and faithful were slain. For example, over two days in 1792, a group of 191 faithful were executed. They were imprisoned in the Abbey of St-Germain-des-Prés, Hôtel des Carmes in the rue de Rennes, Prison de la Force, and Seminaire de Saint-Firmin in Paris, France by the Legislative Assembly for refusing to take the oath to support the civil constitution of the clergy. Out of fear of incensing the people in the provinces, the leaders hesitated to abolish religion or close the churches entirely. This explains the vacillating policy of the revolutionists. They succeeded, however, in driving thousands of priests into hiding or out of the country.

SACRED ART SHOW AND SALE

The 2010 Sacred Art Show and Sale
Friday, March 19 & Saturday, March 20, 2010

Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center
3700 Sheridan Blvd.

Friday, March 19, 5:30pm to 9pm

Wine and hors d'oeuvres

\$2 donation to cover the food costs (or \$5 per family)

Free Admission for Priests and Religious

Saturday, March 20, 9am to 5pm

Free Admission for all

For 2010, the Catholic charity is the St. Gianna Women's Homes, a program for women escaping domestic violence and abortion. Ten percent of all sales will be donated to this beneficiary. An anonymous donor is matching dollar for dollar, so effectively 20% of each purchase goes to the home. For more information about the St. Gianna home, please contact Catholic Social Services in Lincoln.