

Catholic Social Services  
2241 "O" Street  
Lincoln, NE 68510



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## An Evening WITH ELLEN CELEBRATING THE SEASON



ellen soukup

### A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR ST. GIANNA WOMEN'S HOMES

Sunday, December 13, 2009

6:30 pm Cash Bar

7:00 pm Concert

Dessert served at intermission

Rococo Theatre

140 North 13th Street, Lincoln

Tickets: \$50 per person, Loge Section (limited availability)

Mail your payment and completed registration form to the address listed on the registration form at the right. Your ticket(s) will be mailed to you shortly after we receive your form and payment.

Call Lisa Marks at 450-5529 with questions.

#### Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ Please indicate number of individual tickets, @ \$50 per ticket

Please list the individuals with whom you would like to be seated:

Please make your check payable to **Catholic Social Services** and send with completed registration form to:

Dave and Lisa Marks  
8363 Katrina Lane  
Lincoln, NE 68512

Media sponsor



# Via Satoris

## WAY OF THE SOWER

November 2009

Volume 15, Issue 11

**Blessed George Napper**

## A second chance for heroic charity

George Napper was born in 1550 in Holywell Manor in Oxford, England, when it was illegal to be a Catholic. His great uncle was Cardinal William Peto. At age 18, George was expelled from school as a Catholic and shortly after was imprisoned for almost nine years for the Catholic faith. He was eventually released after renouncing the faith by taking the 'royal oath' - a mistake he would never make again.

He quickly repented and sailed for Douay, France and entered the seminary to study for the priesthood. After his ordination in 1596, he returned to England and functioned as a priest in hiding. Like many of his brother priests, he was detained and searched on the morning of July 19, 1610. The authorities discovered his holy oils and breviary (a prayer book containing the liturgy of hours that priests are obliged to say daily) the evidence needed for the capture and arrest of a priest in hiding. Miraculously, they did not find his hidden pix with several consecrated hosts.

Not forgetting taking the 'royal oath' as a youth, he remained steadfast refusing to deny the faith Jesus Christ handed down to us through the apostles. His execution was rushed for he was caught ministering to a fellow prisoner, helping him die a faithful Catholic.

His charity was heroic as he gave much of his food and clothing to other prisoners as he preferring to be cold and hungry for the benefit of Jesus who lived in his fellow inmates. He was put to death on November 9, 1610 and like St. Thomas More, died praying publically for the king.

Here is an example of a man unjustly condemned. He was a priest of Jesus Christ who even from a prison cell fulfilled the gospel mandate given to us by Jesus Christ Himself, "Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me" (Mt 25:34-36).

By the grace of God and the intercession of Mary, the angels, saints and Blessed George Napper, may we all love God with all of our hearts, souls and minds and our neighbor as ourselves (Mt 22:37-39).

Blessed George Napper, pray for us!

**Catholic Social Services**  
of Southern Nebraska

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

## Agency Update- November 2009

## Climbing the latter of sanctity

As we get closer to the season of Advent, let us examine how close or far we are in climbing the ladder of sanctity or holiness in our lives.

By reading the life of Blessed George Napper, which accompanies this newsletter, may it spur a more critical examination of our consciences, i.e., our love of neighbor, especially the poor and needy. May the heroic love Blessed George exhibited even from a prison cell while condemned for being a Catholic priest be the catalyst igniting more charity in our hearts.

Please consider helping us spiritually with your prayers and penances, materially with your material donations and financially according to your means to help us love

Jesus Christ in the poor and needy. We often help families in crisis, like a recent pregnant young women with her two children living in her car who had nowhere to go.

Please know that we at Catholic Social Services will keep you, your family and intentions in our prayers as we routinely pray for our benefactors every morning at 8:30. Blessed George Napper, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,



Fr. Christopher Kubat  
Executive Director

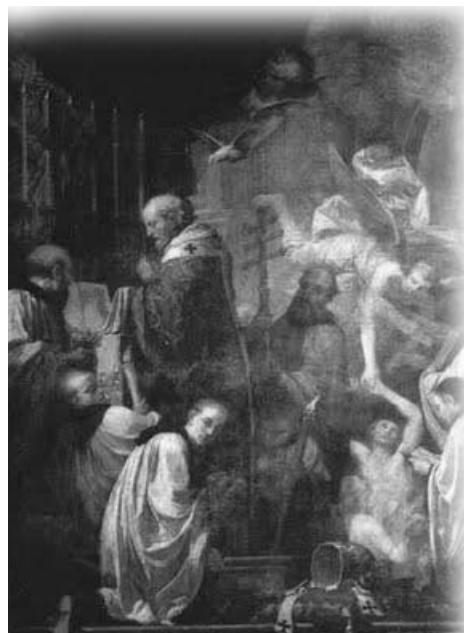
## Our Catholic Culture

## November: month of the Holy Souls

The Christian tradition of praying for the deceased can be traced back to the Apostles and the Jewish tradition of praying for the dead. The month of November has long been a special time to remember our deceased loved ones. The practice of offering a Mass for a particular person who has died became popular in the 7th century, about the same time as the tradition of daily Mass. It was about this time that monks began offering Mass on the day after Pentecost for their departed community members. In 998, the Benedictine monastery of Cluny began celebrating a feast to remember their dead on November 2nd. Eventually, this practice spread to parishes served by secular clergy.

In the 13th century, Rome placed the feast day on the annual calendar for the universal church. The November 2nd date was kept so that all of the deceased members of the church as the Communion of Saints might be remembered on successive days, the triumphant saints in heaven on November 1st and those in purgatory on November 2nd.

In commemorating the feast of All Saints earlier this month, Pope Benedict XVI said the connection between the living and their deceased loved ones is a mysterious reality of sharing where the good one person does benefits all. The Holy Father stated that in remembering loved ones who have died, Christians do not focus only on the sadness of death because they know Jesus rose from the dead and he saves those who follow him. "So when we visit cemeteries, we remember that only the mortal remains of our dear ones lie in the tombs awaiting the final resurrection. Their souls -- as Scriptures tells us -- are already 'in the hands of God,'" he said.



## St. Gianna Women's Homes

## Ellen Soukup to perform benefit concert

On Sunday, December 13th, you are invited to *An Evening with Ellen: Celebrating the Season*. Contemporary Christian singer Ellen Soukup will perform this concert at the beautiful Rococo Theatre in Lincoln as a fundraiser for the St. Gianna Women's Homes. For the past two years, Ellen has performed this concert as a benefit for Spirit Catholic radio and KVSS. This year, KVSS has kindly given this event to Catholic Social Services, who will hold it as a benefit for St. Gianna Women's Homes. The concert begins at 7 PM, with dessert served at intermission. Complete event information, including registration form, can be found on the back page of this newsletter. Seating is limited, so be sure to get your registration in soon!



## A brief look at the life of

## Blessed George Napper

Life as a Catholic in 16th-century England was not pleasant. Upon reaching the throne in 1588, Queen Elizabeth I declared herself "Supreme Governor" in all matters spiritual and temporal, denouncing loyalty to the Bishop of Rome as an act of treason. Driven by fear and intimidation, many Catholics enrolled in the Church of England. However, many refused to do so and were labeled as "recusants", or those that refused to denounce their Catholic faith.

Born in Oxfordshire, George Napper belonged to a prominent Catholic recusant family. He managed to gain entrance into Corpus Christi College, Oxford, in 1565, but was expelled three years later as a recusant. In 1580, he was arrested as a recusant and imprisoned for over eight years. Worn down by his captivity, George decided to capitulate and declared his acceptance of the religious supremacy of the Queen and was released from prison. Almost immediately, George became ashamed of his decision to renounce his faith.

Determined to make amends for having rejected the pope, he decided to become a Catholic priest. To do so meant that he would need to leave his native England.

During the 1570's, English Catholics living abroad established schools on the European continent for the training of young British Catholics to become priests and



return to their homeland. George entered such a school in France and was ordained a priest in 1596. In 1603, he was sent back to England where even more stringent anti-Catholic laws had been enacted. Native-born men ordained Catholic priests outside Britain, who proceeded to carry on a Catholic ministry in England, were now committing an act of treason. Though Father Napper

worked in secrecy, he was nabbed as a suspect by authorities on the morning of July 19, 1610. Those who had arrested him failed to find two Eucharistic hosts and a small reliquary that he carried concealed on his person. They did find, however, his breviary and set of holy oils and considered this enough evidence to be presented in court. While in prison, Father Napper ministered to a prisoner, who died declaring himself a Catholic. The act of reconciling a fallen-away Catholic was a particularly heinous crime in England. Brought into court to face the charges and under cross-examination, Father Napper admitted that he had

reconciled the man in question. He even said that he would be glad to do the same for the judges. Somehow, he was reprieved. But then he refused to take the oath of allegiance that described the pope's power to depose as "impious, heretical and damnable." That was too much for the court to take. Father George Napper was condemned to death and executed on November 9, 1610.