

Catholic Social Services
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Via Satoris

WAY OF THE SOWER

October 2009

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The Guardian Angels

Oh Angel of God, My Guardian Dear

If we read psalm 91 we are assured that God will "give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways" (Ps 91:11).

When asked by His disciples who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, Jesus replied, "Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 18:4). And then, "See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold that face of my Father who is in heaven" (Mt 18:10-11).

It should be consoling that our protectors who are specifically assigned to us are constantly gazing on the beautiful face of God Almighty. This should be an added incentive to avoid sin. Why would we want our angels (who know better than us that sin offends God) to see at the same time the face of God and an offensive action that is offending Him?

When we arise in the morning let us say, in addition to our usual morning prayers, the following prayer to our Guardian Angel: "Oh Angel of God, my guardian dear to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side to light and guard, to rule and guide, Amen." Then before bedtime, in addition to our usual prayers let us say this prayer once again substituting the word "night" for "day."

Let us not forget that in addition to asking for the prayers, protection and intercession of our guardian angels we can also invoke the same intercession of other people's guardian angels for them. Let us be forever grateful that God has given us so valuable a companion to guide us on this journey to eternity. Let us likewise look forward to the day we will together look on the face of God in Heaven at the end of time. Our Guardian Angels, pray for us!

Every October 2nd, the Universal Church celebrates the memorial of our Guardian Angels. I recently read in a liturgical publication that, "The existence of angels is a doctrine of faith; the belief in guardian angels is not."

In response, the Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession. Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life. Already here on earth the Christian life shares by faith in the blessed company of angels and men united in God" (CCC 336).

Throughout the scriptures, from Genesis to Revelation, angels play a pivotal role in God's plan. Whereas we possess an intellect (the part of our soul that we think and know with) and will (the part of our soul that we choose and love with) otherwise known as our soul and a body, angels are pure spirits- spirits without bodies. Unfortunately, many angels fell in the beginning and are called demons with Satan as their leader.

Because of the love and mercy of God we have all been given a protector, known as a guardian angel.

St. Gianna Women's Homes

Great meal and a great cause

Catholic Social Services holds a First Friday Fish Fry each month outside of Lent. All net proceeds will go to support our St. Gianna Women's Homes. Come enjoy a great meal for a great cause!

Please join us for these upcoming First Friday Fish Frys:

- ◆ November 6th ◆ December 4th
- ◆ January 8th* ◆ February 5th

**We will not serve on the first Friday in January, which is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*

No CSS Friday Fish Fry during Lent
(March 5th, April 2nd)

5:00 pm-8:00 pm
\$8 per person \$30 per family includes:
◆ Entree ◆ Side Orders ◆ Dessert ◆ Beverage

Catholic Social Services

2241 "O" Street
(Enter through west door)

Take Out Available!



Need to get a great meal on the go?
Call ahead for a take out order!
During each First Friday Fish Fry,
take out orders are accepted
from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm!
Pull up to our take out area on the
23rd Street of our building!
Cash, check or credit card accepted.

Agency Update- October 2009

Inspired to come seek help

Dear Friend in Christ:

In this month's Via Satoris meditation I discuss how privileged we are to possess a protector who while guarding us are gazing on the face of our Heavenly Father in the beatific vision.

I cannot help feel that often people who are in desperate need are inspired by their guardian angels to come through our doors for help.

Just recently a single mother with three children, twins and one in her womb, came to us for help. She was fleeing a domestic violence situation and had been sleeping in her car. Thanks to our generous benefactors we were able to help her.

Please consider helping us spiritually with your prayers, materially with your donations, and financially with your cash donations according to your means so we can continue helping and loving Jesus who lives in the poor and needy.

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.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,



Fr. Christopher Kubat
Executive Director

Hastings Social Services

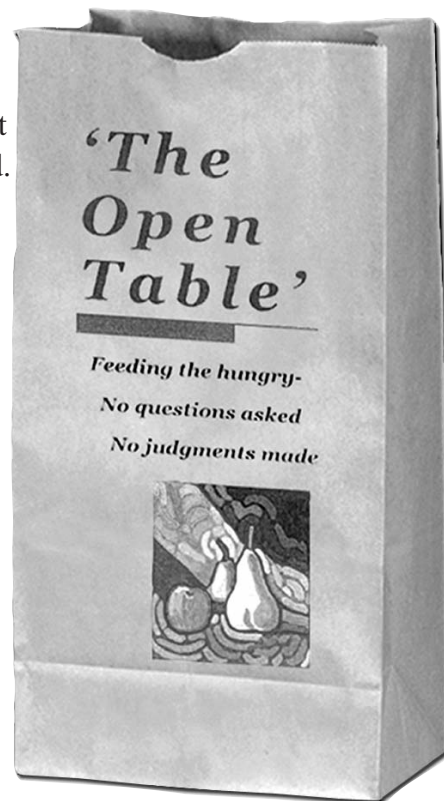
Sack Lunch Program continues growth

What began as a pilot project in our Catholic Social Services office in Hastings in 2004 has quickly grown into a daily outreach program providing sack lunches Monday through Friday through our office. The Sack Lunch Program distributes sack lunches daily to anyone who is hungry in the Hastings community. The Open Table, a collaborative effort of more than twenty-five agencies, churches, and organizations from the Hastings area prepare sack lunches for daily distribution at our Catholic Social Services location at 515 West Third. Any individual may request a sack lunch, one per day, no questions asked. The intent is to feed the hungry and build a relationship with them. We want to gain their trust so they will allow us to help them develop a plan to be more self-sufficient and prevent them from becoming homeless.

In 2004, the first year of the Sack Lunch Program, we distributed 3,852 sack lunches. We have experienced substantial growth year:

- ◆2005: 7,585 sack lunches served
- ◆2006: 8,743 sack lunches served
- ◆2007: 14,627 sack lunches served
- ◆2008: 18,959 sack lunches served

Through August of this year, we have already served 16,236 sack lunches. On July 27th of this year, we set a new record of 204 sack lunches distributed in one day. With the economy continuing to struggle and food prices on the rise, we expect the Sack Lunch Program will continue to see monthly increases in the number of needy served.



A brief look at

St. Bernard and our Guardian Angels

Born to French nobility in 1090 in Burgundy, St. Bernard of Clairvaux was named a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius VIII. One of his most famous writings was on our Guardian Angels. In it he said:

“Brethren, we will love God's angels with a most affectionate love; for they will be our heavenly co-heirs some day, these spirits who now are sent by the Father to be our protectors and our guides. With such bodyguards, what are we to fear? They can neither be subdued nor deceived; nor is there any possibility at all that they should go astray who are to guard us in all our ways. They are trustworthy, they are intelligent, they are strong — why, then, do we tremble? We need only to follow them, remain close to them, and we will dwell in the protection of the Most High God. So as often as you sense the approach of any grave temptation or some crushing sorrow hangs over you, invoke your protector, your leader, your helper in every situation. Call out to him and say: Lord, save us, we are perishing.”



Our Catholic Culture

The Fifteen Promises of Mary

The Catholic Church has traditionally celebrated October as the month of the Holy Rosary. The following are the fifteen promises to those who recite the rosary that the Blessed Virgin revealed to St. Dominic:

- ◆Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the rosary shall receive signal graces.
- ◆I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the rosary.
- ◆The rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.
- ◆It will cause virtue and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and lift them to the desire of eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.
- ◆The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the rosary, shall not perish.
- ◆Whoever shall recite the rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its sacred mysteries shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice, he shall not perish by an unprovided death; if he be just he shall remain in the grace of God, and become worth of eternal life.
- ◆Whoever shall have a true devotion for the rosary shall

not die without the sacraments of the Church.

- ◆Those who are faithful to recite the rosary shall have during their life and at their death the light of God and the plenitude of His graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the merits of the saints in paradise.
- ◆I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the rosary.
- ◆The faithful children of the rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in Heaven.
- ◆You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the rosary.
- ◆All those who propagate the holy rosary shall be aided in their necessities.
- ◆I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of death.
- ◆All who recite the rosary are my sons, and brothers of my only son Jesus Christ.
- ◆Devotion of my rosary is a great sign of predestination.

