

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



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# Via Satoris

## WAY OF THE SOWER

October 2010

Volume 16, Issue 10

Saint Frideswide said that the kings of England regularly avoided Oxford for years.

## Looking forward to the true riches

In addition to her intense love for God, the Catholic Church and her faith, she possessed a great love for Jesus present in the poor and the sick. After the above described event while returning to her monastery she encountered a poor young leper who asked her to kiss him. After making the sign of the cross she bent over and kissed the young man. We can only surmise she recalled the passage in the Sacred Scriptures that says, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40). Isn't this reminiscent of what St. Martin of Tours did? After kissing the young leper, he was made clean.

St. Frideswide was born to a local Mercian prince or king known as Didan and his wife Safrida around the year 650. Mercia was a kingdom located in the Trent River Valley (now known as the English Midlands). She was educated by a governess named Algiva. Through the grace of God and the influence of Algiva she discerned at an early age the vocation to the religious life in a monastery.

Her father Didan, sympathetic to her wishes, gave her land to found a monastery which eventually developed into present day Oxford. Algar, another Mercian prince, smitten with her beauty decided to have her at all costs. He relentlessly pursued her with such persistence that she sought shelter for three years in a pigs shed that was converted into her hermits cell.

Eventually her location was discovered by the tenacious Algar who was temporarily struck blind after our saint invoked the intercession of saints Catherine and Cecilia whom she saw in a vision prior to her holy death. After this transpired it is

We can learn a lot from St. Frideswide. Her humble ascent to the teachings of the Catholic Church led to strong faith which led to incredible hope, as she looked forward to true riches in heaven, not the transitory and temporary pleasures of this passing world. How else is it possible to leave the world and its fleeting pleasures and enter a monastery and hide in a pigs shed for three years? This kind of faith and hope leads to extraordinary charity, the kind that allows one to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" and "your neighbor as yourself" (Mt 22:37-39).

Let us implore the intercession of St. Frideswide, whose feast day is celebrated on October 19, so we can love God and our neighbors as we should, especially those in need. St. Frideswide, pray for us!

 **Catholic Social Services**  
of Southern Nebraska

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

### Apostolate of Suffering

## A spiritual union through suffering

Founded in 1926 by Clara M. Tiry, the Apostolate of Suffering seeks to unite all sufferers in a spiritual union. Its purpose is to assure the sick and the afflicted that their lives are not useless, that by patient bearing of pain they can help spread the Kingdom of God on earth. It aims to promote among its members a childlike abandonment to God's Holy Will. Members offer their sufferings for:

- ♦The conversion of sinners
- ♦The salvation of the dying
- ♦The release of poor souls from Purgatory
- ♦Increase of vocations the priesthood and religious life
- ♦The success of missionary work
- ♦The sanctification of priests
- ♦The reparation for sins committed against the Blessed Eucharist

Membership is open to the sick or to those who, though able to work, are afflicted with some disease, ailment, or infirmity that causes suffering. Men and women, priests and religious, young and old, are eligible for membership, as are patrons of the sick. Spiritual benefits of membership include:

- ♦Holy Masses are offered every month for the members and their intentions
- ♦A share in the annual novena of Holy Masses and other novenas during the year
- ♦A memento in the daily Holy Mass of the Spiritual Director and other priests
- ♦All members share in each other's prayers and the merits performed according to the spirit of the Apostolate
- ♦Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II granted his blessing to the Apostolate and the members

For more information on becoming a member of the Apostolate of Suffering, fill out the form below and return it in the enclosed remit envelope.

Yes, I would like more information on membership in the Apostolate of Suffering!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## Agency Update- October 2010

## Joining us in our mission of serving

Dear Friend in Christ:

**G**reetings! I hope and pray that you have a chance to read about the life of Saint Frideswide, the patron saint of this month's Via Satoris. What was most striking to me was the love she demonstrated to the poor young leper she encountered when returning home after an extraordinary trial in her life.

Recently we helped a single young mother with small children days before she was to be evicted from her place of residence. It was only by the generosity of our benefactors that made this possible.

Please pray for the continued success of our universal mission to help needy individuals and families. Please also consider a cash donation according to your means so we can continue to love Jesus Christ present in the poor. The weather is turning colder and we are heading into the time of year where we see an explosion in demand for our services all across southern Nebraska.

Never forget that we at Catholic Social Services pray for you, your families and intentions every morning at 8:30. Saint Frideswide, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

*Fr. Christopher Kubat*  
Fr. Christopher Kubat  
Executive Director

## More on the life of

## Saint Frideswide of Oxford

**T**he original monastery where Saint Frideswide resided is thought to have been where Christ Church in Oxford, England now stands. In the 1980's archaeologists found evidence of a graveyard at the site that was estimated to have dated back to the late 7th century. It is believed that this is the site where St. Frideswide was buried. In 1180 the prior of the monastery had her bones disinterred and placed in a reliquary which was displayed in a shrine that became a popular destination for pilgrims hoping for miracles. Another shrine to Saint Frideswide was built in 1289, but was destroyed during the Reformation in the 1530's. Many pieces from this shrine have been found over the past century, and it has been reconstructed in Christ Church Cathedral. It stands in the Latin Chapel, in front of a wonderfully detailed stained glass window telling the story of her life.

As for her bones, they were dug up in the reign of Mary Tudor, and kept in two silk bags. A few years later, when the veneration of saints was severely discouraged, Saint Frideswide's relics were deliberately mixed up with the bones of another woman who had been buried in the Cathedral, and they were re-interred together in "the upper part of the church towards the east." This is where the shrine is now, just to the south of it, in the Lady Chapel. There is also a dark paving stone in the floor with the name "Frideswide" carved on it.



## Our Catholic Culture

## Pope Benedict XVI and the rosary

**O**ctober has traditionally been the month the Catholic Church devotes to the rosary. In his visit to the Pontifical Shrine of Pompeii in October of 2008, Pope Benedict XVI tells of the importance of praying the rosary. Here are some quotes from his visit:

♦“The experience of the Saints bears witness to it: this popular Marian prayer [the Rosary] is a precious spiritual means to grow in intimacy with Jesus, and to learn at the school of the Blessed Virgin always to fulfill the divine will. It is contemplation of the mysteries of Christ in spiritual union with Mary ...”

♦“It is ... necessary to let the Blessed Virgin take one by the hand to contemplate the Face of Christ: a joyful, luminous, sorrowful and glorious Face. Those who, like Mary and with her, cherish and ponder the mysteries of Jesus assiduously, increasingly assimilate His sentiments and are conformed to Him.”

♦“The Rosary is a school of contemplation and silence. At first glance, it could seem a prayer that accumulates words, therefore difficult to reconcile with the silence that is rightly recommended for meditation and contemplation. In fact, this cadent repetition of the Hail Mary does not disturb inner silence but indeed both demands and nourishes it.”



## Hastings office

## Lenten Food Drive volunteers honored

**T**he Annual Catholic Social Services Bountiful Harvest Banquet held on September 12, 2010, honored the volunteers, parishes and schools that assist our Hastings office with the Lenten Food Drive. These volunteers help us replenish our food pantry shelves at a time of the year when donations typically fall off, while demand stays strong. Coordinators of the Lenten Food Drive received special recognition with a certificate of appreciation for their kind and generous work. Over 400 people attended this year's Bountiful Harvest Banquet, held once again at the Hastings City Auditorium, which also highlights the work of Catholic Social Services in the Hastings area over the past year. Here is a list of those honored at the banquet:

St. Joseph Parish, Alma  
St. Germanus Parish, Arapahoe  
St. Joseph Parish, Benkelman  
Holy Trinity Parish, Blue Hill  
St. John Parish, Cambridge  
St. Anne Parish, Campbell  
St. James Parish, Curtis  
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Dewese  
St. Ann Parish, Doniphan  
St. Joseph Parish, Farnam  
St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Franklin  
St. Joseph Parish Geneva  
St. Helena Parish, Grafton  
St. Joseph Parish, Harvard  
St. Cecilia Parish, Hastings  
St. Cecilia High School, Hastings  
St. Michael Parish, Hastings

Holy Cross Chapel, Hastings  
Holy Family Parish, Heartwell  
All Saints Parish, Holdrege  
St. Patrick Parish, Imperial  
St. Catherine Parish, Indianola  
Assumption Parish, Juniata  
Sacred Heart Parish, Kenesaw  
Sacred Heart Parish, Lawrence  
St. John Parish, Minden  
Sacred Heart Parish, Nelson  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, North Platte  
St. Mary Parish, Orleans  
St. Michael Parish, Oxford  
Holy Family Parish, Palisade  
Sacred Heart Parish, Red Cloud  
Sacred Heart Parish, Roseland  
St. Mary Parish, Shickley

St. John Parish, Smithfield  
St. Joseph Parish, Stratton  
St. Joseph Parish, Superior  
St. Mary Parish, Sutton  
St. James Parish, Trenton  
St. John Parish, Wauneta  
St. William Parish, Wellfleet



Lenten Food Drive volunteers were honored at this year's Bountiful Harvest banquet held in Hastings