

Catholic Social Services
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Via Satoris Special Edition



Via Satoris 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.

Via Satoris Special Edition

December 2008

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Saint Thomas Becket

"I must serve the Church"

When one hears the names 'Thomas,' 'Henry,' and 'England' in the same sentence, one familiar with Church history usually first thinks of the martyr St. Thomas More and King Henry VIII and the beginnings of the Protestant Revolt in England during the sixteenth century. There are two other characters with the same names from England we should never forget. Let us take a moment and examine briefly the life of the martyr St. Thomas Becket and his relationship with King Henry II of England, who lived in the twelfth century.

It is thought that Thomas was born in London in 1118 into the middle class family of Gilbert and Matilda Becket. As a young man, he spent his free time horseback riding, hunting and jousting. He was well educated having spent some time studying in Paris. He eventually gained employment with Archbishop Theobald of Canterbury who allowed him to further study canon and civil law in Bologna and Auxerre. After being ordained to the diaconate he became the Archdeacon of Canterbury. Then at the age of thirty six, after the death of King Stephen, he was named Chancellor by King Henry II and thus became the third most powerful man in England. There are even reports of Thomas leading men into battle and personally staging daring attacks. It has been said that we Christians are in

the world but not of it. This was true of Thomas, as he never shared in the licentious behavior and language of those around him.

Eventually after the death of Archbishop Theobald he was nominated as the next Archbishop of Canterbury. He agreed only after the insistence of Cardinal Henry of Pisa. After being ordained a priest and bishop he began this new chapter of his life which would gain him a martyr's crown. He was known to be a bishop who led with a spiritual life of intense prayer and penance.

Not long after his consecration to the episcopate, his troubles began with the king. Having resigned the chancellorship, he was known to have said, "I served our Theobald well when I was with him: I served King Henry well as Chancellor: I am his no more, and I must serve the Church."

Because of King Henry's persistent interference in Church affairs tensions grew between the two leading to a temporary 'exile' in France and Italy. Eventually this led to the persecution of his family members complete with the confiscation of their property.



Upon his return to England, agents of the king brutally murdered our illustrious saint in his own cathedral. He was canonized less than two years after his death.

May we meditate on the life of St. Thomas Becket and through his prayers and intercession may we love God above all things and be ready by the grace of God to defend our Catholic faith. Let us know that no one is able to take this most precious gift from us, the gift we should be most thankful for at Christmas time. St. Thomas Becket, pray for us!

Making a little time for God

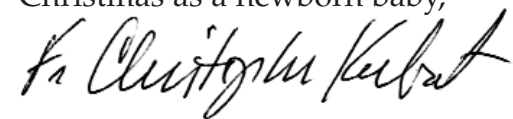
Greetings from Catholic Social Services! As we continue our Advent preparation for Christmas and celebrate Christmas itself, let us take the advice of St. Anselm. He exhorts us to "escape from your everyday business for a short while, hide for a moment from your restless thoughts. Break off from your cares and troubles and be less concerned about your tasks and labors. Make a little time for God and rest a while in him." It is only when we give God a little time each day in a quiet loving union will we experience him inwardly. Then we will grow in love with Him and will be more loving toward our neighbor.

Please consider helping us spiritually with your prayers, materially with your items not needed or wanted, financially according to your means so we can continue to help individuals and families that will come to us during this most holy time of year. With winter 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 right 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 into our offices every day.

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

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus, who came to us at Christmas as a newborn baby,

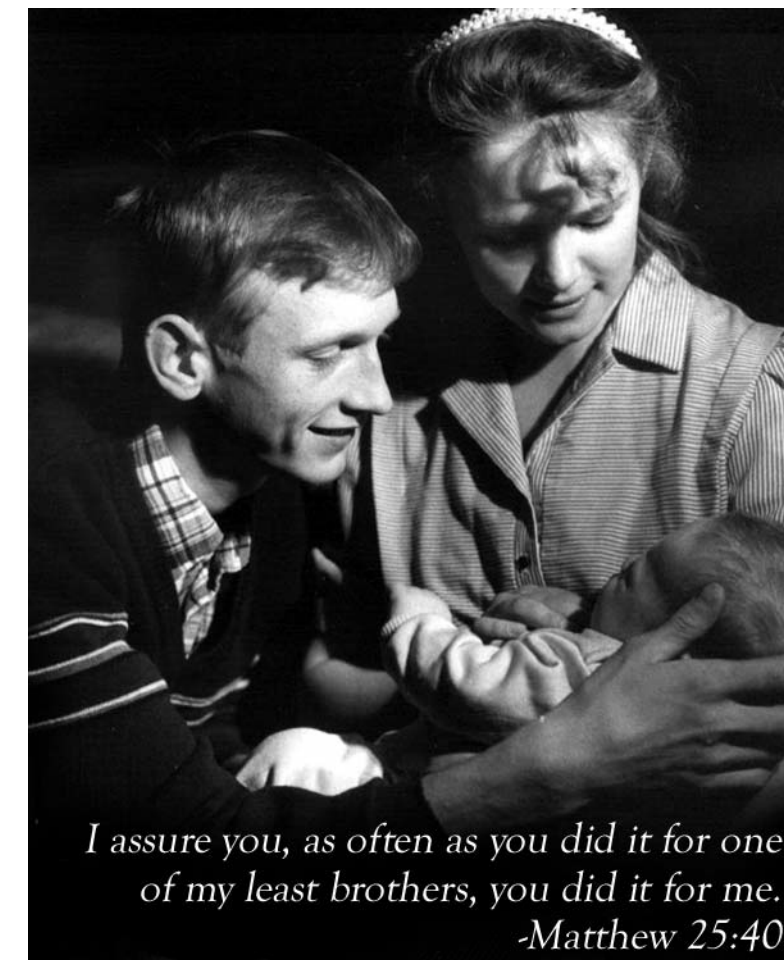


Fr. Christopher Kubat
Executive Director

PRAYER TO ST. THOMAS BECKET



O God, for the sake of whose Church the glorious Bishop Thomas fell by the sword of ungodly men: grant, we beseech Thee, that all who implore his aid, may obtain the good fruit of his petition. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who livest and reignest with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.



I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for 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

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*



In just a few short hours, our CSS Is US! Rolling Thrift Stores serve hundreds of needy people