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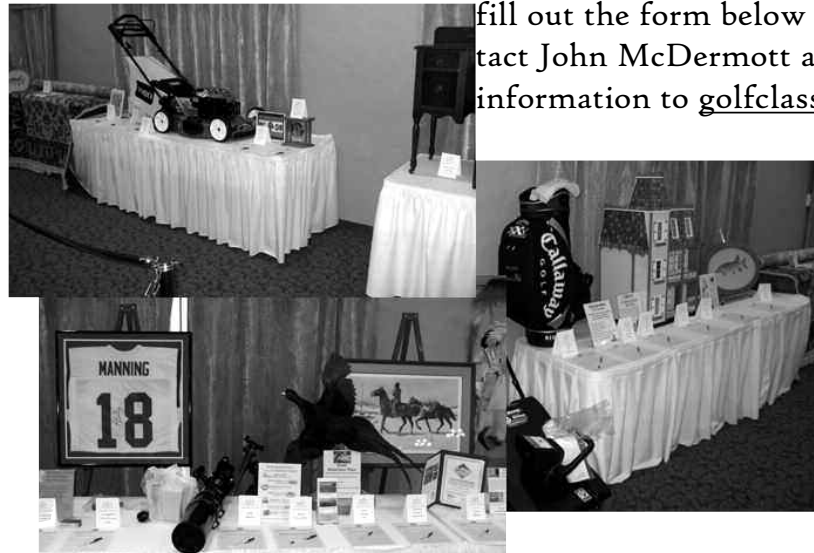


CSS Is US!

Auction items needed for Catholic Social Services' 14th Annual Memorial Golf Classic & Auction

Do you have a collectible item or antique that is collecting dust? How about an unique vehicle that you have no more need of? We could use it for our auction! We're looking for items to be donated for the 13th Annual Catholic Social Services Memorial Golf Classic & Auction, to be held on August 13, 2010! Maybe you have some extra tickets to an event or Husker game. Or, maybe you own a business that could donate an item or a service. If you have an item or an idea for our Silent or Live Auction, just

fill out the form below and place it in the enclosed remit envelope, contact John McDermott at (800) 981-8242 or (402) 430-5626, or e-mail the information to golfclassic@cssisus.org. Thank you!



Yes, I have an item to donate for the CSS Silent & Live Auction!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Description of donated item: _____

2241 O Street • Lincoln, Nebraska 68510 • (402) 474-1600 • Toll Free: 1-800-981-8242

Via Satoris

WAY OF THE SOWER



March 2010

Volume 16, Issue 3

Saint Joseph Oriol

Seeking the truth about ourselves in God's eyes

In March, the Universal Church celebrates the feast days of three men named Joseph- Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary on March 19th, Joseph of Arimathea on March 17th, and Joseph Oriol on March 23rd (the focus of this month's meditation).

Joseph was born in the middle of the seventeenth century in Barcelona. He never knew his natural father, who died shortly after his birth. As a child, his stepfather died as well, a good man who loved little Joseph as his own. Through it all, he developed a deep and active faith, singing in the boy's choir in his local parish (called St. Mary of the Sea) while spending hours each week in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Once during his time in prayer, our Blessed Lord revealed to him how far he was from perfection. From then on, he resolved to spend more time in prayer and penance. He eventually was ordained a priest and after the death of his mother went on a pilgrimage to Rome, where he met Pope Innocent XI. He was then assigned to a parish in his native town of

Barcelona where he spent the rest of his life- despite his desire to go to the missions and die a martyr's death.

Because of his zeal for souls and the care of the sick, he spent his salary for the care them and Masses for the dead. His residence consisted only of a room with a table, bench, a few books and a crucifix on the wall. He slept only two to three hours each night, always on the floor.

As his reputation as a miracle worker grew, the sick flocked to him in droves. Others sought him out for spiritual advice. What "free time" was left over he spent in the confessional. In addition to this, he also had the gift of prophecy and foretold his own death. Just before dying, he assured the crying masses that his love for them after death would exceed what was possible while alive. After receiving the last sacraments, he died in 1702 at the age of fifty-three with his eyes fixed on the crucifix. He was beatified in 1806 and canonized in 1909.

Isn't true humility recognizing the truth, namely the truth about ourselves in relation to God? May we, like St. Joseph Oriol, ask Almighty God for his divine assistance in seeing the truth about ourselves in the eyes of God. Then with His powerful graces, may we excel in our spiritual lives in the practice of prayer, penance and the love of our neighbor especially those in need. St. Joseph Oriol, pray for us!

 **Catholic Social Services**
Of Southern Nebraska

1313 Eldon Drive Lincoln, NE 68510 • (800) 981-8242 • www.cssisus.org

Agency Update- March 2010

Growing in love of God and neighbor

Dear Friend in Christ:

Shortly before typing these words I noticed spring flowers poking through the snow outside. New spring growth is symbolic of the resurrection, symbolic of new growth in one's soul garnered after increases of prayer and penance during Lent. This is why green is used during ordinary time- to symbolize new growth in the soul after Lent and Easter.

I hope you have had a chance to read the short meditation of this month's saint, St. Joseph Oriol who after learning how far he was from perfection in the eyes of God responded by the grace of God and grew in his love of God and neighbor.

Just weeks ago, a single mother wrote a gripping thank you note, thanking us for helping save her house. She hurt herself on the job and since her workers compensation was not enough, she almost lost her home. I must

relay this thanks to where it is due- to our generous donors.

Please consider helping us again this month spiritually with your prayers, materially with your donations of used items not needed at home, and financially with a cash donation according to your means so we can continue to help the thousands that come to us each month, all across the diocese.

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

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,



Fr. Christopher Kubat
Executive Director

A brief look at

Saint Joseph Oriol's "home"

During a pilgrimage to Rome, Pope Innocent XI personally appointed Saint Joseph Oriol as canon of a central Barcelona church, where he continued to live simply, caring for the poor, hearing confessions and acquiring a reputation for facilitating miraculous cures. This church, named the church of Santa Maria del Pi, is where Saint

Joseph Oriol is honored today. The shrine faces the Placa del Pi, a square edged by shops and cafes that merges with the popular Placa de Sant Joseph Oriol. This historic church was famous even during Saint Joseph Oriol's time as an example of Catalan Gothic, rebuilt in 1322, 400 years after its beginnings.

As is the case with many Spanish churches, church of Santa Maria del Pi is adorned with beautiful sacred art. Above the main entrance is a statue of Our Lady with the Christ Child. Mary is honored in several of the fourteen side chapels flanking the nave. A simple sculpture of the church patron occupies a central niche in the apse wall behind the altar and she is venerated in one chapel as Our Lady of Mercy. Another Marian sculpture is admired as the single miraculous survivor of the arson that almost destroyed the church during the Spanish Civil War in 1936. What makes the church unusual and a major attraction for tourists is the presence of a map and plaque in the Saint Joseph chapel that direct visitors (oddly enough, in English, since most signs in the city are written in Castilian or Catalan) to specific places in the church, including the saint's tomb,

where miraculous cures are said to have taken place.



St. Joseph Oriol

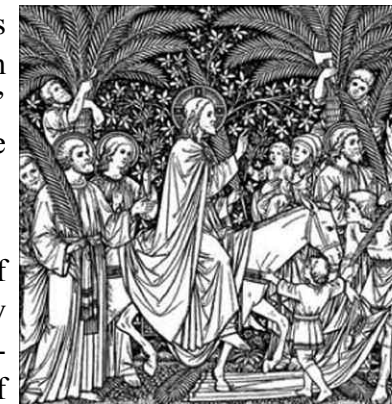
Our Catholic Culture

Celebrating Palm Sunday with palms

On Palm Sunday, parish liturgies begin with the blessing of the palms somewhere outside of the usual assembly area. This is done in imitation of the Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The gospel account of this triumphant entry is read while the people process into church holding palms. Thus begins the Jesus' passage from life to death to the Resurrection.

The use of palms and commemoration of Palm Sunday can be traced to the early days of the Church. Originally, the faithful processed in the original footsteps of Jesus from Bethany into the city of Jerusalem, carrying palm fronds or olive branches, the two most common trees in Palestine. As the celebration of Palm Sunday

spread to Europe over the years, local versions of palms were used such as willow branches, cedar branches and flowers.



Blessed palms are respectively seen as holy objects or sacramentals. Families often place one or more behind a holy picture or crucifix until the next Palm Sunday. Some braid them into crosses. An old custom common in Austria, Bavaria and Slavic countries is to scatter bits of blessed palms around the farm to protect fields and animals against bad weather or disease. Today, before the beginning of Lent for the following year, blessed palms are burned at the local church and the ashes are used in the Ash Wednesday services.

Social Services

St. Isadore Gift & Thrift opens in Imperial

Almost two years ago when we announced the first-ever capital campaign for Catholic Social Services, we based our campaign on four needs: purchase the former Old Country Buffet building in downtown Lincoln; establish a safe home for women across the southern Nebraska escaping domestic violence and abortion; establish a permanent site in Western Nebraska; and effectively start an endowment. On Monday, March 8th, we realized the goal of a permanent site in the western part of the diocese with the grand opening for St. Isidore Gift & Thrift in Imperial. Named after the patron saint of farmers, St. Isidore Gift & Thrift is CSS' fourth thrift store. Like the stores in Lincoln, Hastings and Auburn, the money generated by sales at St. Isidore Gift & Thrift will stay in the area to provide services in Imperial and the western area of the diocese. Fr. Bernard Lorenz and the parishioners of St. Patrick's are graciously letting CSS use the old hall on a temporary basis. Eventually it is hoped that a building can be found to permanently house the store, which is managed by Bill Sullivan. Congratulations to Bill, Fr. Lorenz and the St. Patrick's community on the opening of St. Isidore Gift & Thrift!



Fr. Lorenz, right, assists Fr. Kubat at the blessing of St. Isidore Gift & Thrift



Bill Sullivan, Fr. Lorenz and guests at the ribbon cutting ceremony for St. Isidore Gift & Thrift

