

Catholic Social Services
2241 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lincoln, NE
Permit No. 976



CSS Is US!

Auction items needed for Catholic Social Services' 15th 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



15th Annual Catholic Social Services Memorial Golf Classic & Auction, to be held on August 12, 2011! 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 _____

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 2011

Volume 17, Issue 3

Saint Nicholas Owen

Protector of the Faith

Not much is known about this sixteenth century English martyr's early life other than he maintained his 'baptismal innocence.' According to the account in Butler's Lives of the Saints, this illustrious martyr has the reputation of having "contributed more to the preservation of the Catholic faith" than anyone else during that dark and ugly period in England when the Catholic Church was outlawed. The penalty was imprisonment, torture and death for those caught practicing the faith that Jesus Christ founded on the apostles (or even worse, those who were found harboring or hiding priests).

Nicholas had the knack of not only finding safe places to hide members of the Catholic clergy, but in the designing and construction of these places of refuge as well. It was said, "he alone was their architect and builder." In addition, he somehow always knew how to disguise the entrance of each place. He credited his success to having received Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament before beginning each job and to having prayed continually during the construction process. Since he was short in stature and the work was often heavy he gained the nickname of 'Little John.'

Since those who staked, arrested, imprisoned and killed priests were seemingly relentless he was captured, arrested and imprisoned multiple times. Some of the tortures he endured were the rack, and having been hanged from the hands with weights attached to his feet for hours at a time.

He also had the ability of instigating clever plans of escape several times for imprisoned clergy, but eventually during the last of his imprisonments, he succumbed and died for the true faith. His only lifelong goal was to aid priests of Jesus Christ so they could administer the sacraments for the salvation of souls. It was during this almost twenty years of playing cat and mouse with the anti-Catholic authorities that Nicholas was admitted to the Jesuits as a brother. It was Fr. Garnet, a close friend and co-worker who said, "Myself have been one of the seven that have escaped that danger at one time in a secret place of his making. How many priests then may we think this man did save by his endeavors in the space of seventeen years in all shires in the chiefest Catholic houses in England!"

St. Nicholas died on March 2, 1606 and his feast day is March 22nd. We can look to St. Nicholas as an example to emulate, namely the willingness to lay it all down for Christ if we are ever asked to. "For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him" (Phil 3:8-9). St. Nicholas Owen, pray for us!!

 **Catholic Social Services**
Of Southern Nebraska

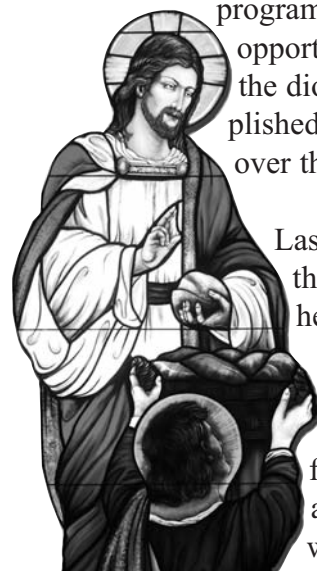
2241 O Street Lincoln, NE 68510 • (800) 981-8242 • www.cssisus.org

Agency Update- March 2011

Testimony to your generosity

Dear Friend in Christ:

On February 20th Catholic Social Services celebrated its 24th Celebration of Caring banquet, where we awarded Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz the Cor Christi award. In his remarks Bishop Bruskewitz said he accepted the award in the name of the people of Southern Nebraska because of their charity. During the program part of the evening, I had the opportunity to share what the faithful of the diocese of Lincoln has accomplished through Catholic Social Services over the previous year.



Last year, by the grace of God and the generosity of the faithful, we helped 24,000 individuals and 14,000 families across southern Nebraska with emergency services such as rent, utility assistance, food, clothing, furniture, appliances, cars and other items along with grants for counseling for

those who are un-insured or underinsured. These astonishing statistics are a testimony to the generous people of southern Nebraska who love the presence of Jesus in the poor.

I hope you have a moment to read this month's account of St. Nicholas Owen, who did so much while giving his life to preserve the Catholic faith in perhaps the darkest period in English history. It was this same love of God that led him to die a martyr's death.

Please continue helping us spiritually with your prayers, materially with items not needed around the house, and financially with a cash donation according to your means so we can continue Christ's ministry to those less fortunate. Please know that we at Catholic Social Services will keep you, your family and intentions in our daily prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

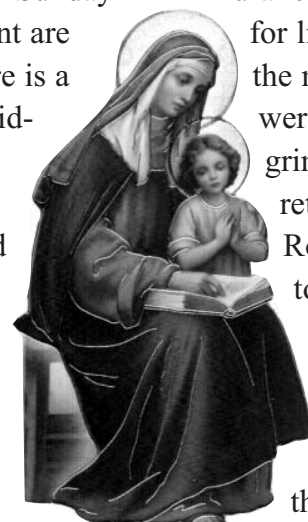
Fr. Christopher Kubat
Executive Director

Our Catholic Culture

Laetare Sunday, Mothering Sunday

Named after the Introit, "Rejoice with Jerusalem" (Is. 66.10), Laetare Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent. The violet vestments of the celebrant are replaced this day for rose vestments and there is a break from the rigors of the season on the mid-way point in Lent. During this time the ancient tradition of handing over the Apostle's Creed to the catechumens occurred and was seen as the last decisive step for those to join the Church at Easter Vigil.

The sponsoring community would become aware of its own spiritual birth and life, evolving into the ancient and indulged tradition of visiting one's mother church, or cathedral, on this day. Thus the fourth Sunday of Lent



also became known as "Mothering Sunday." Small rural chapels served as the weekly gathering places for liturgy, but on this Sunday all would go to the mother church of the parish, where they were baptized. This eventually became a pilgrimage of sorts, when children would also return home to spend the day with parents. Roses became the traditional flower brought to Mass, in part because of the color of the vestments for the day. After Mass, the children presented the roses to their mothers. One tradition tells of Mothering Sunday to be an honoring of St. Anne, the mother of the Blessed Mother. Long before Mother's Day became a holiday, the fourth Sunday had become a day of family reunion.

Social Services

Lenten Food Drive provides timely relief

During the holiday season, thousands of donors across the diocese generously fill the shelves of our St. Francis Food Pantry in Lincoln and St. Andrew Food Pantry in Hastings. But as late winter and early spring arrives, our shelves thin out while demand stays strong. Thankfully, many parishes undertake a Lenten food drive each year to help restock our pantries. Grocery sacks are distributed by the parishioners through the school or church. Parishioners are asked to fill and return them to the school or church and the collection of groceries is taken to our Lincoln or Hastings offices. This year, over 1600 sacks through the Lincoln parishes. In Hastings, about 2,000 sacks will be distributed to parishes in south central and western Nebraska. If you would like to organize a Lenten Food Drive in your parish, contact Curt Krueger in the Lincoln office at (800) 981-8242 or Tom Schik in Hastings at (888) 826-9629.



A brief look at

The Forty Martyrs of England and Wales

Saint Nicholas Owen was canonized as one of the Forty Holy Martyrs of England and Wales. This is a group of forty men, women, religious, priests, and lay people who were canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1970. These people were executed for their Faith during a period of anti-Catholicism from 1535 to 1679. The Martyrs who were canonized were among more than two hundred martyrs who had been beatified by various earlier popes.

Some of the so-called "crimes" of these people were being priests, harboring priests, or refusing to take the Oath of Supremacy. Many of these saints are recognized on the days of their martyrdom, but as a group, they are recognized on the day they were canonized. They are representative of the English and Welsh martyrs of the Reformation who died at various dates between 1535 and 1679. The group is made up of 13 priests of the secular clergy, 3 Benedictines, 3 Carthusians, 1 Brigittine, 2 Franciscans, 1 Augustinian, 10 Jesuits and 7 members of the laity, including 3 mothers. Some of the martyrs include:

- ♦ St. Cuthbert Mayne, a Devonian, who was the first martyr not to be a member of a religious order. He was ordained a priest at the then newly-established English College at Douai in Northern France and was put to death at Launceston in 1577.
- ♦ St. Edmund Campion, the famous Jesuit missionary and theologian who published secretly from Stonor Park, the ancient Catholic country house near Henley-on-Thames, who died in 1581 on the same day as St. Ralph Sherwin, the first martyr to have been trained at the English College in Rome.
- ♦ St. Margaret Clitherow, the wife of a butcher with a shop in the famous Shambles in York, who allowed her house to be used to celebrate Mass, who was sentenced to be crushed to death under a large stone at the Ouse Bridge Tollbooth.
- ♦ St. Philip Howard, eldest son of the fourth Duke of Norfolk (himself executed for treason in 1572) who led a dissolute existence and left behind an unhappy wife in Arundel Castle until he was converted by the preaching of St. Edmund Campion, and died in the Tower in 1595.

