

ST. LIDWINA

PATRON SAINT APOSTOLATE OF SUFFERING

St. Lidwina is the patroness of sickness. She was born in Schiedam in 1380. One of nine children, she developed a devotion to Our Lady early on, and would stop by her Church to greet her Lady with a Hail Mary whenever sent on an errand. She pledged her virginity to Christ at the age of twelve.



When Lidwina was sixteen, a fall while ice skating with friends caused her to break a rib. An abscess formed inside her body, which later burst and caused her extreme suffering. This injury led to a life as an invalid. Her pain was intense, yet she bore it all patiently as reparation for the sins of others. Jesus appeared to her in an apparition and promised the reward of heaven to her in return for her suffering. Thus assured, Lidwina began meditating on the Passion of our Savior, divided into seven parts that corresponded to the seven canonical hours of prayer. She also prayed to God for her sufferings to be increased. Lidwina was given several mystical gifts. She had visions of heaven, hell and purgatory, apparitions of Christ and the Saints, and was given the stigmata.

For the last 19 years of her life Lidwina had the gift of *inedia* (the abstinence from all nourishment for great lengths of time), and her only food was the Holy Eucharist. Many miracles occurred at her bedside during this time. She was also tested by accusations of possession. An ecclesiastical commission was appointed to investigate the charges, and her experiences were declared valid.

Lidwina died on Easter Tuesday in 1433. Her final vision was of Christ administering last rites to her. Her name means *suffer in plenitude*.

Aspirations of SAINT LIDWINA

St. Lidwina, already as a child devoted to the Blessed Virgin, OBTAIN FOR US A FILIAL LOVE FOR HER.

St. Lidwina, offering thyself as a victim of reparation for sinners, for priests, and for the souls in purgatory, HELP US TO IMITATE THY EXAMPLE.

St. Lidwina, unable to take any nourishment for many years, OBTAIN FOR US THE SPIRIT OF MORTIFICATION.

St. Lidwina, enduring fevers without complaint, HELP US TO ACCEPT HEAT AND COLD AS COMING FROM THE HANDS OF GOD.

St. Lidwina, devoid of all consolation and plunged into a state of desolation, OBTAIN FOR US THE GRACE TO BE FAITHFUL IN SPIRITUAL DRYNESS.

St. Lidwina, poor, and yet trying to alleviate the sufferings of the lowest, FILL US WITH TRUE COMPASSION FOR THE NEEDY.

St. Lidwina, in the midst of thy sufferings seeking to comfort the sorrowful, AROUSE IN US HEARTFELT SYMPATHY FOR THE AFFLICTED.

St. Lidwina, ardently desiring to be united with Jesus in Holy Communion, FILL US WITH A RELISH FOR THIS HEAVENLY FOOD.

St. Lidwina, patient and resigned in the most painful maladies, OBTAIN FOR US THE GRACE TO BE FAITHFUL TO OUR VOCATION OF BEING APOSTLES FOR CHRIST THROUGH SUFFERING.

The Apostolate OF SUFFERING



Catholic Social Services
of Southern Nebraska

An Association of CHRIST'S FAITHFUL PEOPLE



CLARA TIRY

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 to spread the Kingdom of God on earth. It aims to promote among the members a spirit of love for suffering and 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 to the priesthood and religious life, the success of missionary work, the sanctification of priests, and reparation for sins committed against the Blessed Eucharist.

Membership is open to the sick or 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

- Holy Masses are offered every month for the members and their intentions and the deceased members.
- All members share in each other's prayers and the merits of the good works performed according the spirit of the Apostolate.
- Pope Saint John Paul II granted his blessing to the Apostolate and the members.
- Members and patrons of the Apostolate will be remembered by daily prayers at the National office.

CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

- The firm resolve to accept all suffering in harmony with the holy designs of God.
- To bear suffering in a spirit of Christian resignation.
- To offer sufferings for the intentions of the Apostolate. This does not exclude other personal intentions.
- To send name, address, and annual \$10 membership fee to the National office (unless sponsored)



*"Come to me, all you that
LABOR AND ARE BURDENED,
and I will GIVE YOU REST."*

Matthew 11:28

ENROLLMENT APPLICATION

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FEE- \$10

REQUIRED INFORMATION- PLEASE PRINT

Your name

Your address

Your City, State, Zip Code

--CHECK ONE--

☐ I am enrolling MYSELF- please send membership items and renewal reminder to the address listed above (A renewal reminder will be sent to you the month before expiration)

☐ I am sponsoring the enrollment of SOMEONE ELSE- send membership items to:

Sponsored member name

Sponsored member address

Sponsored Member City, State, Zip Code

(NOTE: A renewal reminder will be sent to you, rather than to the member, the month before the expiration date)

All memberships include a subscription to *Our Good Samaritan*, the newsletter of the Apostolate of Suffering.

Mail this form, with \$10 membership fee, to:

Apostolate of Suffering
c/o Catholic Social Services

P.O. Box 30425

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