

Catholic Social Services
2241 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

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You are cordially invited to attend the 31st annual
Celebration of Caring Banquet:

“Praise, My Soul,
The King of Heaven”

For the benefit of Catholic Social Services
Embassy Suites, 1040 P Street, Lincoln
Sunday, February 18, 2018

Social Gathering- 4:30 pm Dinner and Program- 6:00

The program includes the presentation of the *Cor Christi (Heart of Christ) Award*, which recognizes persons or a group demonstrating love of neighbor, perfectly illustrated to us by the heart of Christ. This year’s recipients are Tom & Rhonda Peed.

This year’s Celebration of
Caring Banquet is at
Embassy Suites
1040 P Street, Lincoln



CELEBRATION OF CARING RESERVATION ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Yes, I/We will attend. Enclosed is \$_____ to reserve _____ places at Celebration of Caring 2018 (\$65.00 per person, \$130.00 per couple OR \$55.00 per person for those 60 or over)

Name of attendee(s): _____ Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Daytime phone: _____ Parish: _____

No, I/we are unable to attend this year. Please accept the enclosed donation of \$_____ for Catholic Social Services.

A check is enclosed to sponsor the complimentary attendance (\$65) of _____ priest(s)

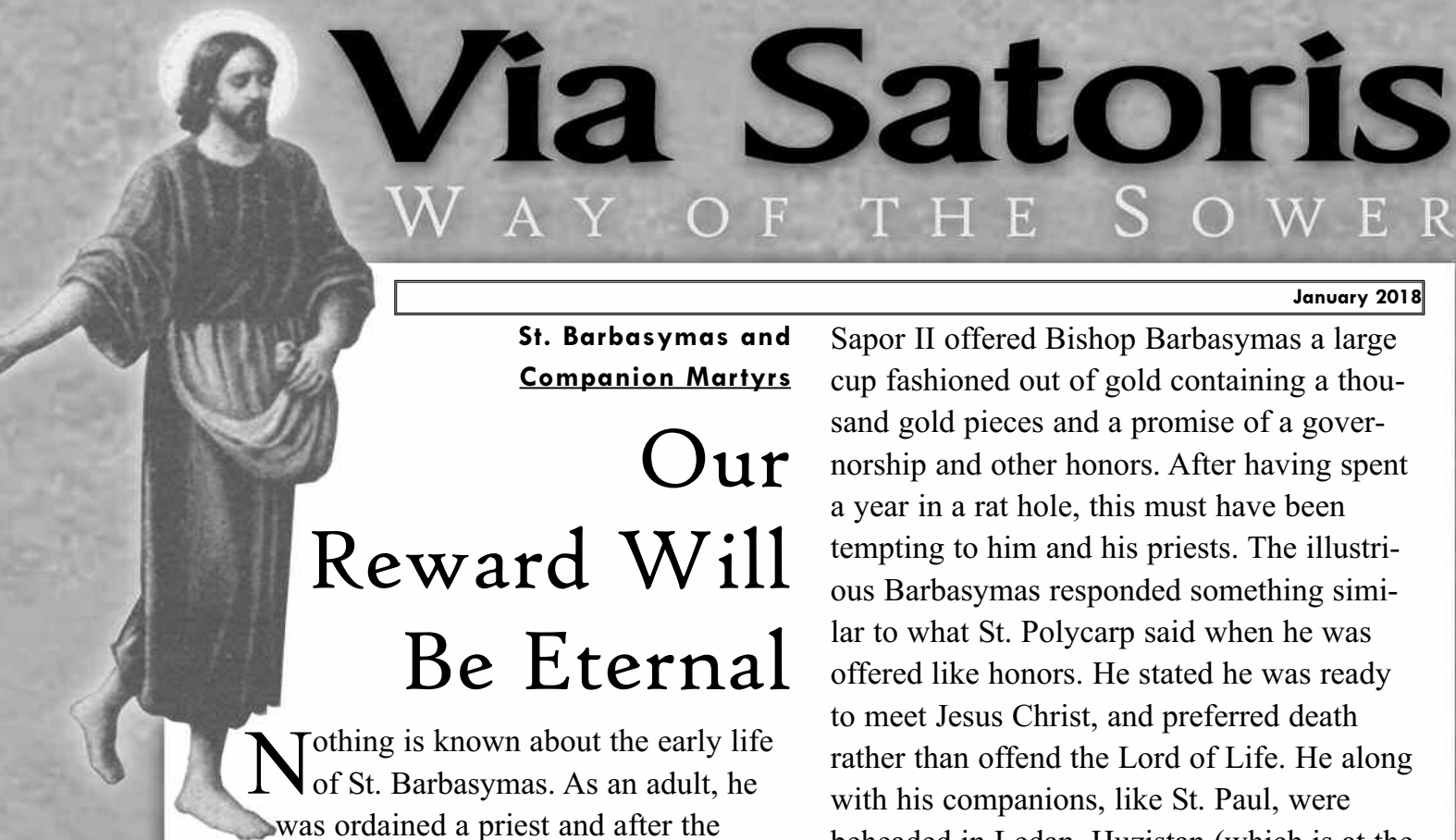
PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

Mail this form, along with names of attendees (if attending) and appropriate fee no later than 2/10/18 to:

Catholic Social Services

2241 O Street Lincoln, NE 68510

VS



St. Barbasymas and
Companion Martyrs

Our
Reward Will
Be Eternal

Nothing is known about the early life of St. Barbasymas. As an adult, he was ordained a priest and after the death of his brother, St. Sadoth, he succeeded him as the bishop of Seleucia and Ctesiphon in Persia in the year 342. This area is today in the central area of Iraq, not far from Baghdad.

Even though Christianity became decriminalized throughout the Roman Empire with the Edict of Milan in the year 313, it still remained, in practice, illegal in the Persian Empire. Around the year 348, only six years after being ordained a bishop, by an order of King Sapor II, he along with sixteen of his priests were charged with being enemies of the Persian state and divinities of Fire and Water.

After multiple threats and ultimatums, they were imprisoned. After nearly a year of having suffered hunger, dehydration and unspeakable horrors and torture, they were brought before the king and were left unrecognizable. It was after all of this that King

Sapor II offered Bishop Barbasymas a large cup fashioned out of gold containing a thousand gold pieces and a promise of a governorship and other honors. After having spent a year in a rat hole, this must have been tempting to him and his priests. The illustrious Barbasymas responded something similar to what St. Polycarp said when he was offered like honors. He stated he was ready to meet Jesus Christ, and preferred death rather than offend the Lord of Life. He along with his companions, like St. Paul, were beheaded in Ledan, Huzistan (which is at the northern end of the Persian Gulf between present day Iraq and Iran).

We know that after their death, King Sapor II issued a royal decree that all Christians would officially face the same fate unless they refused to worship the idols of fire and water. A large unknown number of Catholics suffered the same fate.

The feast day of St. Barbasymas and companion martyrs is celebrated on January 14. As Christians are being persecuted in an unprecedented manner in our present day, including in our own country legislatively and judicially, let us remind ourselves that our sufferings in this age are temporary but our reward will be eternal. By the intercession of St. Barbasymas and companion martyrs, may we be willing to suffer anything so as to share the glory of the Risen Christ. St. Barbasymas and companion martyrs, pray for us!!

 **Catholic Social Services**
of Southern Nebraska
2241 O Street Lincoln, NE 68510 • (800) 981-8242 • www.cssisus.org

Agency Update- January 2018

Preparing for our ultimate home

Hello from Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska! I hope you are staying warm during this cold time of year. I pray you will have a moment to read about this month's saints, St. Barbasymas and companion martyrs. They endured unspeakable horrors and torture rather than offend the One True God.

Just recently we helped a homeless pregnant young woman exit homelessness after which she told me she now believes in God. Not only did we assist her physically by helping her off the streets as she gets ready to give birth to her new baby, but also spiritually, for our ultimate home is in heaven.

Please consider helping us spiritually with your prayers and penances, materially with unneeded items around your home or farm not needed (including vehicles), and financially with a cash donation according to your means so we can continue to help the many individuals and families who come to us in crisis like the single young pregnant woman described earlier. St. Barbasymas and companion martyrs, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,



Fr. Christopher Kubat
Executive Director

Our Catholic Culture

The Epiphany Home Blessing

A popular tradition that began as far back as the Middle Ages and is associated with the Epiphany is the blessing of homes with holy water and chalk. The blessing calls for a priest or parent to mark, with blessed chalk, the inside of the main door of the home with the initials of the Magi-Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar- and the numbers of the current year connected with crosses. For this year, it would read 20+C+M+B+18. Another explanation of the initials "C,M,B" is that they are the first letters of the blessing: *Christus mansionem benedicat*, Latin for "May Christ bless the house." The priest or parent may then offer the following prayer:

*Lord God of heaven and earth,
you revealed your only-begotten
Son to every nation by the guidance
of a star.*

*Bless this house and all who inhabit
it.*

*Fill us with the light of Christ, that
our concern for others may reflect
your love.*

*We ask this through Christ our
Lord. Amen.*

*May Christ Jesus dwell with us,
keep us from all harm, and make us
one in mind and heart, now and
forever. Amen.*

*(Blessing of the Home and Household on
Epiphany Prayer, USCCB)*



31ST ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF CARING BANQUET

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2018 NEW LOCATION: EMBASSY SUITES, LINCOLN

SEE BACK PAGE FOR RESERVATION INFORMATION

CSS Is US!

Presenting the 15th Annual Trumpet Fest in honor of Mac McCune and Dennis Schneider

The 15th Trumpet Fest will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2018, at 3:00 in the Pius High School auditorium. Starting with last year's event, Trumpet Fest is held in honor of Mac McCune and Dennis Schneider, two local trumpet legends who were annual performers at Trumpet Fest from the start, playing at the event over the years.

Created by Kevin Murray in 2004, this mid-winter event has raised over \$23,000 for the programs of Catholic Social Services. Some of the performers for this year's event will include Kevin Murray, L.J. McCormick, Barb Schmit, Maria Pytlik, John Tavlin, Louie Echard and University of Nebraska-Lincoln trumpet professor Darryl White, a regular Trumpet Fest performer. In the grand old style of collecting donations, hats will be passed through the audience with all proceeds going to Catholic Social Services. For questions regarding this event, contact Kevin Murray at (402) 540-3130.



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES PRESENTS TRUMPET FEST

In Memory of Mac McCune and Dennis Schneider

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11th
3:00 PM**
Pius X High School
6000 'A' Street
Lincoln, NE

Scheduled to perform:
Darryl White - Kevin Murray
Barb Schmit - John Tavlin - Maria Pytlik
LJ McCormick - Louie Eckhard
UNL Trumpet Studio
& more!

Hats will be passed for
a free-will offering with
proceeds going to Catholic
Social Services.

CSS Is US!

With your help, the St. Nicholas Toy Shoppe
in Lincoln served 474 families and
1,307 children this year.

Thank you to all of our donors and volunteers
who made this possible!