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Via Satoris

WAY OF THE SOWER

March 2017

**Saint Victorianus and
Companion Martyrs**

Suffering in defense of the faith

There are a number of saints with the name Victorianus. Not much is known about the events surrounding the birth and early life of this saint. He was known to have lived and died in what is now present day Mauritania in northern Africa. For centuries, all of northern Africa was inhabited by Christians, but after the rise of Mohamed in the seventh century it became Islamic by the sword.

We know he was a man of wealth who was appointed the proconsul by the Arian Vandal king of the area. It was the Arians who did not believe in the divinity of Jesus Christ- in other words, that Jesus Christ is truly God in addition to being true man, something fundamental to our Christian faith as outlined in our Nicene Creed, "I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made."

In the year 480 King Huneric began torturing and putting to death priests and consecrated vir-

gins. Within a few years, expanded this to the laity in general. In 484, King Huneric arrested his proconsul Victorianus after hearing he was a faithful Catholic and impelled him to denounce the true faith as outlined earlier (which was formulated at the Council of Nicaea in the year 325) or face unspeakable tortures and death. After refusing to denounce his faith, he was tortured and put to death. We know that two other wealthy men by the name of Frumentius suffered the same fate. Two other brothers, whose names are unknown to us, also entered eternal life triumphantly. Their feast day is celebrated on March 23.

Unknown to many of the faithful, laws and regulations are being enacted across our country that are designed to force faithful Christians to violate their faith. People who face losing their jobs and professions by maintaining their fidelity to Christ and His Church need to remember that people like St. Victorianus and companion martyrs gave up their families, homes, wealth and life for their Christian faith. With their prayers for us, may we be willing to suffer as they did in defense of our precious faith knowing that our sufferings in this life are only for a time, but our reward will be eternal.

I pray that your Lenten prayers and penances will help you grow closer to God our Father, through His only Begotten Son who died so we could live eternally in the Holy Spirit. St. Victorianus and companion martyrs, pray for us!!

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Agency Update- March 2017

Drawing closer to the Sacred Heart

Hello from Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska! As we navigate this Lenten season, let us remember that with more attention to prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we will be fashioned more closely to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ which was pierced for love of us.

I trust that you will have a free moment to read about the lives of St. Victorinus and companion martyrs in this issue, who paid the ultimate price for maintaining their fidelity to Jesus Christ.

Just recently we helped a young woman escape a violent situation with her three beautiful young daughters. They are so traumatized that they are unable to smile and say hello to people to whom they are introduced.

It has been our experience that with prayers, love and support, they will soon be able to interact and smile once again.

Please prayerfully consider helping us love Jesus in the poor and needy with your prayers and penances, with any unneeded material items around your home or farm (including vehicles) and a cash donation according to your means so we may continue to love Jesus Christ Who lives in the poor and needy in a special way. Please be assured of our daily prayers, penances and Masses offered for you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

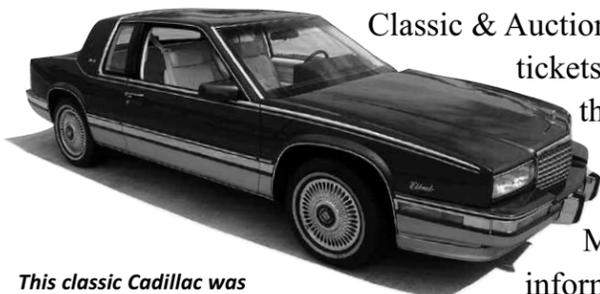
Fr. Christopher Keenan

CSS Is US!

Auction items needed for Catholic Social Services' 21st Annual Memorial Golf Classic & Auction

Do you have a collectible item or antique that is collecting dust? How about a unique vehicle that you no longer need? How about a time-share or vacation cabin in Colorado? We could use it for our auction! We're looking for items to be donated for the 21st Annual Catholic Social Services Memorial Golf

Classic & Auction, to be held on August 11, 2017! 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 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 info@cssisus.org. Thank you!



This classic Cadillac was donated to last year's auction

Yes, I have an item to donate for the CSS Memorial Golf Tourney & Auction!

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Description of donated item: _____

A brief look at

The Feast of the Annunciation

The Feast of the Annunciation celebrates the fact that God the Son became Man. Remembered each time we recite the First Joyful Mystery of the Rosary, this momentous event took place when, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Blessed Virgin Mary conceived Jesus Christ. The Annunciation is one of the three most ancient feasts of Our Lady. The feast dates from the Council of Ephesus in 431, when Our Lady was proclaimed the Mother of God. This proclamation was because of a heresy which denied Mary's Divine Motherhood. It was



also the Council of Ephesus which added the following words to the Hail Mary:

“Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death, Amen.”

The feast of the Incarnation is celebrated nine months before Christmas, on March 25. It has been celebrated on this date in the Western church since early in the 7th century. The choice of this date is, of course, directly related to the choice of December 25 for Christmas.

Volunteer Services

Living the meaning of “CSS Is US!”

Last year, we served over 28,000 individuals across southern Nebraska. Performing the Works of Mercy across the 24,000 square miles of the diocese of Lincoln can be a monumental task. If not for the help of our volunteers, it would be nearly impossible. In fact last year, more than 700 volunteers provided over 27,000 hours of service at a value to our agency of nearly \$265,000.00. Thank you to all who volunteered in 2016, showing us all the meaning of “CSS Is US!”

Whether it's one hour a week or one day a week, our locations in Lincoln, Hastings, Auburn and Imperial can always use more volunteers. Areas where you may be able to help include:

- ◆ Administrative Assistants
- ◆ Fundraising Events
- ◆ Food Pantry
- ◆ Sack Lunch Programs
- ◆ Assisting at one of our Gift & Thrift stores

If you are interested in volunteering, in the Hastings area contact Jill McMahon at (402) 463-2112 or (888) 826-9629. In the Lincoln area, contact Sarah Huebner at (402) 474-1600 or (800) 981-8242. Or visit our website at www.cssisus.org.



Volunteers make sandwiches for the Sack Lunch Program in Lincoln