

Catholic Social Services
2241 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

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



Via Satoris

WAY OF THE SOWER

December 2018



Blessed Anthony Grassi

Leading through humility, gentleness

Blessed Anthony Grassi was born into the world in Fermo, Italy into a Catholic family. His father Vincent had an intense devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to the Holy House of Loretto (which is believed to be the house where Our Blessed Mother was born, lived and was visited by the Archangel Gabriel at the time of the Annunciation).

After Anthony's father died when the lad was ten years old, he was encouraged to further discern his calling to the priesthood by Fr. Flaminio Ricci, who was a disciple of St. Phillip Neri. Despite the opposition of his mother, he joined the Oratory of St. Phillip Neri. He was reportedly an excellent student with a sharp and crisp memory which led to some scrupulosity which miraculously disappeared while offering his first Mass of thanksgiving after being ordained a priest. Being a gentle soul in the confessional and able to read souls, he was sought out as a confessor.

Like his father before him, he too developed and nurtured a devotion to the Holy House of Loretto. On one occasion while kneeling in prayer at Mary's house, he was struck by lightning which left a small scar on his body. In the acute phase after the strike he was left in a tremendous amount of pain with considerable paralysis. It was then he was given a great gift from God. He was quoted to later say, "Then I made the discovery that if we believe death to be close at hand

we become quite indifferent to this world and know all earthly things to be emptiness." After making a complete recovery and feeling that his life was spared and changed he felt that, "His life belonged to God in a very special manner." He made it a point to daily thank God for this great gift which was manifested not only physically but spiritually. He made it a point to return to the spot at least on a yearly basis to give thanks to God.

He went on to be the superior of the Fermo Oratory and led in a gentle and humble manner. He was quick to point out the greater value of spiritual mortifications in comparison with physical ones. When asked once if he wore a hair shirt he stated, "Humbling the mind and will is more effective than a hair-shirt between your skin and clothes."

In addition to the gift of seeing into the future, reconciling enemies, he had a tremendous love for the poor and needy and was known to have given most everything he had to those in need. When he reached his eightieth decade, he suffered tremendously when he lost his teeth which interfered with his ability to talk. This curtailed tremendously his ability to hear confessions.

He entered eternity in November of 1671 and was beatified by Pope Leo XIII in 1900. His feast day is celebrated on December 13. As we gaze upon nativity sets at Christmas and during the Christmas season, through the intercession of Blessed Anthony Grassi, may we too grow in the wisdom and knowledge of the brevity of our earthly lives and the permanence of eternal life in heaven. Blessed Anthony Grassi, pray for us!

Via Satoris

WAY OF THE SOWER

Latin for "Way of the Sower", Via Satoris is a unique program that gives you the opportunity to assist Catholic Social Services in bringing Christ's healing love to the suffering. Your prayers and sacrifices strengthen our staff, those we serve and fellow Via Satoris members. As a member, you will benefit from:

- ◆ Having your prayer intentions anonymously remembered with other members in a special Via Satoris Mass.
- ◆ You will receive Father Kubat's monthly meditation containing a reflection, a holy card, and a feature on the Saint of the Month, a saint whose feast we celebrate that particular month.
- ◆ The greatest benefit of this program is that you become part of a diocesan-wide network, united in prayer, and dedicated to building the Mystical Body of Christ throughout southern Nebraska.

To become a member of Via Satoris, just send in the enclosed remit envelope complete with your name, address and prayer intention. Thank you!

 **Catholic Social Services**
Of Southern Nebraska

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

Via Satoris: A way to help us serve those in need

Hello from Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska! I pray you have a free moment to read about the life of Blessed Anthony Grassi, who learned at a young age the importance of meditating on how short our earthly lives are in comparison with eternity. For him, this realization changed his outlook on life and how he lived it.

Recently, three young boys withdrew \$5 each from their bank accounts and came to the CSS office with their grandfather to present us the money to help the poor. One of the boys asked, "Father, do you know anyone who does not have a home?" A homeless woman standing next to him in the lobby started crying. After this, we stepped in to help her.

Thank you for taking the time to read this during this busy time of the year. Our *Via Satoris* mailing in December is always a Special Edition that is mailed to over 8,000 households instead of our typical 2,200 mailings. We do this for the December issue because we want to get the word out about the work we do; to give as many people as possible the opportunity to join in the charitable work of the Catholic community of southern Nebraska by becoming part of *Via Satoris*. Latin for "way of the sower," *Via Satoris* is a program that gives you the opportunity to assist us in bringing Christ's love to the suffering. Your prayers and sacrifices strengthen our staff, those we serve, and fellow *Via Satoris* members. Each month, members receive the *Via Satoris* mailing which includes a reflection and holy card on the "Blessed or Saint



"Our only desire in life should be to praise God and adore Him in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. He who hears Mass with devotion every morning cannot fail to be a friend of God."

-Blessed Anthony Grassi



of the Month," a saint whose feast we celebrate that particular month. You will also receive an envelope on which you can write prayer intentions and send them to us. Each month, your prayer intentions are remembered at a special *Via Satoris* Mass. If you would like to become a member of *Via Satoris*, just fill out the form at the lower right corner of this newsletter and return it in the enclosed envelope. If you would like to receive *Via Satoris* electronically each month, visit our website at www.cssisus.org and click on the "What You Can Do" section to sign up. If you choose the electronic option, you will also receive occasional updates from us.

As we meditate on the fact that the Holy Family on the night Jesus was born could not find adequate housing, please consider helping us spiritually with your prayers and penances, materially with items around your home or farm not needed, and financially with a cash donation, according to your means, so we can continue helping the many individuals who come to us in need like the homeless woman mentioned above. Our prayer is that you and your family have a blessed and merry Christmas and New Year. Blessed Anthony Grassi, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Christopher Kubat
Executive Director

CSS Is US!

Your prayers and support are vital to our mission of service

Our mission, as Catholic Social Services of southern Nebraska, is to Perform the Works of Mercy across the 23,000 square miles of the diocese. Each day we strive to perform this mission through our locations in Lincoln, Auburn, Hastings, and Imperial. The following is snapshot of how you assisted us in performing the Works of Mercy across southern Nebraska last year:

-The St. Francis Food Pantry in Lincoln served 8,852 individuals (2,950 families) food pantries with 203,596 pounds of food valued at \$247,856.

-St. Gianna Women's Homes provided 17,992 nights of housing to 35 women and 44 children. Also, 27 individuals graduated to permanent housing in 2017.

-Over 2,000 kids received toys for Christmas because of the various toy drives and giveaway programs around the diocese at a value of over \$20,000. Hats, gloves, socks and coats were also given to those in need throughout the cold winter months.

-The Immaculate Heart of Mary Counseling Center operated clinics in Lincoln and Hastings as well as in satellite clinical sites in the Newman Center, St. Gregory the Great Seminary, David City, Beatrice and Hastings.

By becoming a member of *Via Satoris*, you can help us with our mission of providing the Works of Mercy to those in need across southern Nebraska. God bless you for your support!



A Sack Lunch Program volunteer hands out a lunch and hot coffee in Lincoln

Yes, I would like to become a member of *Via Satoris* and support you in your work of serving those in need across the diocese!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Fill out this form and return it in the enclosed envelope. If you would like to receive *Via Satoris* electronically, visit our website at www.cssisus.org and click on the "What You Can Do" section.

Last year, by the grace of God and the generosity of our supporters, we helped 28,575 individuals and over 9,000 families with \$1,768,345 of cash and in-kind assistance. CSS Is US!