

Catholic Social Services
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Lincoln, NE 68510

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Saint Justin Martyr

Via Satoris

WAY OF THE SOWER

A desire to suffer for the sake of our Lord

On June 1, the Universal Church celebrated the feast day of St. Justin Martyr. He was born in the year 100 to pagan parents in Flavia Neapolis, Samaria (which today is present day Nablus). As a young man, he studied multiple brands of philosophy and was relentless until two things happened. First, his eyes were opened to the immaterial after finally studying Platonic philosophy. Secondly, his eyes were further opened after meeting and talking with an old Christian man who invited him to study the writings of the Old Testament prophets which pointed to the coming of the Son of Man into the world as the Universal Savior.

After his baptism, he became an outspoken defender and apologist of the Catholic faith publically. Eventually, his travels brought him to Rome where he was arrested and imprisoned for being a Christian (for it was against Roman law).

At the time of his arrest the emperor was Marcus Aurelius, who today is praised and acclaimed as one of the last great Roman emperors. Some sources speculate that his knowledge of the persecution of Christians under his reign is a matter of controversy.

This is hard to believe because at Justin’s trial, Rusticus, the prefect of Rome, instructed Justin that denying the Christian faith and offering sacrifices to the gods was a direct order of the emperor and not to do so was punishable by torture and death.

Justin responded to the threats saying, “We hope to suffer torment for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, and so be saved. For this will bring us salvation and confidence as we stand before the more terrible and universal judgement-seat of our Lord and Savior.” He added, “Do what you will. We are Christians; we do not offer sacrifice to idols.”

The first reading on his feast day was a passage from the first letter of St. Peter who himself was crucified upside down because he was a Catholic. In it we read, “Beloved, do not be surprised that a trial by fire is occurring among you, as if something strange were happening to you. But rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly.” These same sentiments were obviously going through his mind at the time. He was tortured and beheaded at the age of 65 in the year 165.

As Christians are being slaughtered in an unprecedented number and pace in the Middle East, Africa and other areas of the world, and in the west where Christians are losing the ability to practice certain professions and jobs, let us look to St. Justin Martyr as an inspiration. With his prayers, may we have the courage to endure our trials so we will share in the glory which will result in eternal rejoicing. St. Justin Martyr, pray for us!!



In conjunction with the CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Auction, we’re selling raffle tickets for \$1,000 or two 2018 Nebraska football season tickets! **Raffle tickets are 1 for \$10.00 or 3 for \$20.00.** Just print this form, fill out the information at the right and send it to us with your check. Due to postal regulations, raffle ticket stubs cannot be returned by mail for purchases over the Internet, through the mail or by phone. However, a receipt of your purchase with ticket number(s) will be sent to you via US Mail. When an order is placed, we will complete the ticket by filling in the name, address, and phone number, and we will drop the ticket in the barrel at our office. See the form at the right for more details. Mail orders must be received in our office by **August 9th.**

The winners will be drawn at the CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Auction at Hillcrest Country Club on Friday, **August 10, 2018.** The first name drawn will choose between the season tickets or the \$1,000; the second name will win the remaining prize. You need not be a golfer or a participant in our Golf Classic & Auction to win! In fact, you need not be present to win, but it would be a lot more fun if you were! Good luck!

The CSS \$1,000 or 2018 Nebraska Football Season Ticket Raffle Ticket Order Form

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Of Tickets _____ Amount enclosed _____ (1 ticket for \$10 or 3 tickets for \$20)

Please make checks payable to Catholic Social Services. Due to postal regulations, raffle ticket stubs cannot be returned by mail for purchases over the Internet, through the mail or by phone. However, a receipt of your purchase with receipt number will be sent to you via US Mail. When an order is placed, we will complete the ticket by filling in the name, address, and phone number, and we will drop the ticket in the barrel at our office. At the drawing, the winner will be notified based on the name and information on the ticket. See www.cssisus.org for complete set of rules.

 **Catholic Social Services**
Of Southern Nebraska

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

June 2018

Following our inner “pilot light”

Hello from Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska! I pray you have a moment to read about this month’s featured saint, Justin Martyr. It was humility which led him to search for the truth, Jesus Christ, which is fully present in the Catholic Church.

Since we were created for God, we have this inner ‘pilot light,’ which can only be satisfied by God Himself. Recently while walking to my car, a homeless man ran up to me and asked me if I was a pastor. Of course because of my position at CSS I am not a pastor of a parish, but aren’t all priests pastors of souls? After saying yes, he asked me for my prayers. It was a Friday, the day we have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. I brought him into our St. Joseph Chapel to pray.

Before praying, I pointed to the host in the monstrance and said, “There is Jesus, and He loves you!” Needless to say, he was extremely moved and after leaving him, he stayed a considerable time in the chapel as Jesus consoled his wounded heart as only Jesus can.



Please consider helping us spiritually with your prayers and penances, materially with items around your home or farm not needed (including vehicles), or a cash donation according to your means, so we can continue helping the many individuals and families who come to us in need like the man mentioned earlier. Your gift is most important especially as we prepare to increase our ministry to homeless individuals under the patronage of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Christopher Kubat
Fr. Christopher Kubat

Social Services

Help is needed to give drink to the thirsty

It seems the summer heat is here early this year (whatever happened to spring!?!) and it’s taking its toll on those who have little if any shelter. Part of our street outreach to our homeless friends includes providing them with bottles of water. We also like to provide water to those who come into our office for relief. If you would like to help provide drink to the thirsty this summer, we are in need of bottled water. You can drop off bottled water at our Lincoln office at 2241 O Street during business hours. Or if you prefer to make a monetary donation designated to this program, just use the enclosed envelope and write “bottled water” in the memo field. God bless you for your help, CSS is US!



St. Francis Center- Auburn

Reaching out to those in need in southeast Nebraska

One of our goals at Catholic Social Services is to provide services across the 24,000 square miles of the Diocese of Lincoln. Our work in the southeast can be traced back to January of 2000 when we were blessed to begin offering Clinical Services in Auburn, Falls City and Nebraska City. Four years later, we opened the St. Francis Gift & Thrift, designating the profits to be used to fund emergency services and clinical services in the area- as is the case with all of our Gift & Thrift stores. In October of 2012, we remodeled the St. Francis Center and built permanent offices for our Emergency Services and Counseling Services. More importantly, we were given permission to have a chapel with the Blessed Sacrament on site. Here are a few statistics concerning our work in Auburn and southeast Nebraska last year:

- ♦73 volunteers provided 2,063 hours of service to the St. Francis Gift & Thrift store.
- ♦We provided cash and material assistance to 407 individuals and 130 families.
- ♦Our St. Clare Food Pantry provided 22,514 pounds of food to 1,550 individuals and 502 families.



Since
beginning to
offer services
through our
Auburn office
in 2000,
we have
been blessed
to provide
over
\$1,750,000
in total
assistance for
southeast
Nebraska.
CSS is US!

Come sail away and support our work in Auburn area! Our annual “St. Francis Summer’s Eve Celebration” is scheduled for Sunday, June 24th on the *Spirit of Brownville* Riverboat, East Main Street, Brownville. Held from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm, you’ll enjoy a river cruise, dinner buffet and silent auction. Tickets are \$35.00 per person and space is limited. Come enjoy a relaxed evening on the Spirit of Brownville Riverboat while supporting our work in southeast Nebraska! Please detach this form and mail in the enclosed remittance envelope. Your tickets will be mailed to you prior to the event. Registration deadline is June 15th. **Space is limited and may sell out before registration deadline.**

____Yes, I/We will attend the “St. Francis SUMMER’S EVE Celebration” Enclosed is \$_____for _____tickets. (Tickets are \$35 per person) ____No, I/We cannot attend, but enclosed is my gift to support the work of Catholic Social Services across southeast Nebraska.

Name: _____ Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Make checks payable to CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES or charge to: Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Card # _____ Exp. date _____ 3 digit code _____

Signature _____