

Catholic Social Services
2241 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

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Via Gatoris

WAY OF THE SOWER

January 2019



You are cordially invited to attend the 32nd annual
Celebration of Caring Banquet:

“I am the BREAD OF LIFE”

For the benefit of Catholic Social Services
Embassy Suites, 1040 P Street, Lincoln
Sunday, February 17, 2019

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

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, presented this year to the volunteers of our St. Teresa of Calcutta Sandwich Program.

CELEBRATION OF CARING RESERVATION ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Yes, I/We will attend. Enclosed is \$_____ to reserve _____ places at Celebration of Caring 2019 (\$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 2/9/19 to:

Catholic Social Services

2241 O Street Lincoln, NE 68510

VS

St. Peter Balsam

“It is what I most earnestly desire.”

Not much is known about the early life of St. Peter of Balsam, but we know he was a native of Eleutheropolis (which is today 33 miles southwest of Jerusalem) and a committed and faithful Christian.

In the year 311, just two years before the Edict of Milan in which Christianity was decriminalized, Peter was arrested for the crime of being a Catholic under the reign of Maximus. During his interrogation by Severus, Peter confessed to being a Christian. When asked if he knew and understood the law of the land as it related to the illegality of following Jesus Christ, Peter said, “I know the laws of God, the Sovereign of the universe.” When Severus retorted in a threatening way saying, “You shall quickly know that there is an edict of the most clement emperors, commanding all to sacrifice to the gods, or be put to death,” Peter replied, “You will also know one day that there is a law of the eternal king, proclaiming that everyone shall perish who offers sacrifice to devils. Which do you counsel me to obey, and which, think you, ought I to choose – to die by your sword, or to be condemned to everlasting misery by the



sentence of the great King, the true God?”

When Severus pleaded with Peter by advising him to sacrifice to the idols, he refused and was placed on a rack, tortured, and given one last chance. Despite pleading with Peter several times Severus said, “It is our order, that Peter Balsam, for having refused to obey the edict of the invincible emperors, and obstinately defending the law of a man crucified, be himself nailed to a cross.” Before mounting the cross, Peter said, “It is what I most earnestly desire.”

The choice Peter made on the last day of his earthly sojourn is the very choice we make on a daily basis. We are given a choice to follow the dictates of God or not. Fortunately, after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus into heaven we are given the grace from the sacraments, empowering us with the ability to live faithfully. We only have to frequent the sacraments in a humble manner. Let us never underestimate the power of the prayers of the saints for us who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.

Peter died in the year 311. His feast day is celebrated on January 3rd. Through Peter’s intercession, may we grow in the detachment to the things of this passing world and attachment of God and our eternal reward. May this New Year bring you and your family many spiritual blessings. St. Peter Balsam, pray for us!!

 **Catholic Social Services**
Of Southern Nebraska

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

What was needed most

Hello from Catholic Social Services! I hope you have a moment to read about this month's saint, St. Peter Balsam, who was tortured and put to death on a cross for no other reason than being a Catholic.

On Christmas Eve, a woman came to our office wanting only bread. After saying she did not have much food in her pantry, we gave her a gift card to purchase needed food. After shedding some tears and praying in our St Joseph Chapel in front of the Blessed Sacrament, she left our office saying, "Thank you for the prayers, for that is what I need most."

Please consider helping us spiritually with your prayers and penances, materially with items around your farm or home not needed, and financially with a cash donation according to your means, so we can continue helping the many individuals and families who come to us in crisis, like the woman mentioned above.

It is our prayer at Catholic Social Services that you and your family will have a blessed and holy 2019. St. Peter Balsam, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Christopher Kubat
Fr. Christopher Kubat



CSS is US!

Trumpet Fest: A winter tradition continues

The 16th Trumpet Fest will be held on Sunday, February 10, 2019, 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 \$25,000 for the programs of Catholic Social Services. Some of the performers for this year's event will include Kevin Murray, Frank Stroup, Barb Schmit, Maria Pytlik 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.

2019 Celebration of Caring Banquet: "I am the BREAD OF LIFE"

Sunday, February 17, 2019
Embassy Suites 1040 P Street Lincoln, NE
Social Hour- 4:30 pm Dinner & Program- 6:00 pm
Cost- \$65/person (\$55 for those over 60)
See the back of this newsletter for reservation information

St. Teresa of Calcutta Sandwich Program

The Heart of Christ in action

"I had no idea it was this bad." That's what one of our St. Teresa of Calcutta Sack Lunch Program volunteers recently said. Before she began volunteering in the program, this volunteer had no idea that hunger was such a major problem for so many in our community... a problem that many face daily.

Five years ago, we began the St. Teresa of Calcutta Sandwich Program. Located next to our St. Louise Gift & Thrift Store on O Street in Lincoln, this program is modeled after our very successful sack lunch program at our Hastings office. Every Monday through Saturday from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM, individuals may stop by for a free sack lunch and a drink. The St. Teresa of Calcutta Sandwich Program has grown to the point where our volunteers are now distributing over 12,000 sack lunches a year. One of the reasons for the growing need is that this program fills a void in downtown Lincoln; there are no other programs like this being offered in the area. This program not only impacts those we serve, but those who serve as well. Recently a woman using a walker came in for a sack lunch and was so thankful for the help we offered that she felt compelled to make a donation, to give back --- it was one dollar.

We are so blessed to be able to offer the St. Teresa of Calcutta Sandwich Program, but would not be able to do so without the help of our loyal volunteers. They truly exemplify the Heart of Christ, and it is why we will be honoring these volunteers at this year's Celebration of Caring Banquet where they will be presented with the Cor Christi Award (the Heart of Christ). This year's banquet is Sunday, February 17th at Embassy Suites in Lincoln. See the back page for more information.



With your help, the CSS Christmas Programs served 442 families and 2,026 children this year. Thank you to all of our donors and volunteers who made this possible!