I love summer! After spring with its warm weather and thundershowers, and fall with Husker football games, it is my favorite time of year! Everything seems to slow down during summer. The days are longer, there is more time to spend with family in the evenings and there is more time to just sit back and enjoy sitting on your porch and watching your kids tear up your lawn.

Summer can be a stressful time for the poor. The nights are hot which makes it difficult to sleep, and kids who do not get enough sleep for several nights in a row can be quite a handful. Summer is expensive for the poor and working poor as well. The kids are no longer in school so there are additional daycare costs. Also many daycare providers take summer vacations and finding alternative child care for one to two weeks can be extremely difficult. No more hot lunches at schools means a single mom needs to figure out how to provide an additional 65-70 meals for each child through the summer break. Unfortunately, it is not the hazy lazy days of summer for everyone. People come to Catholic Social Services for different reasons in the summer. Sure, people still need help with rent and utilities and food, but some just stop in our offices for a bottle of water and to sit in the air conditioning for a few minutes. The number of sandwiches we give away in Hastings and Lincoln will rise during the summer months. The number of homeless people sleeping outside increases and so we will see more requests for bedrolls and blankets. It is easy to forget about the poor during the summer because at least it is warm outside. But the struggle to get by occurs every day, 365 days a year - it knows no seasons. It’s easy to remember to pray for the poor and homeless when the wind chill is -30, please remember them in your prayers this summer as well.

-Curt Krueger
Director of Social Services

Why drive to Missouri? Buy your fireworks here and support Catholic Social Services!

Buy 1 Get 3 FREE!
on select items
Located under the big tent at Catholic Social Services parking lot at 23rd & O Streets, Lincoln

Volunteers prepare sandwiches for the CSS lunch program in Lincoln

Prayer to Saint Isidore the Farmer

Dear Isidore, you know how normal it is to cultivate the land for you were employed as a farm laborer for the greater part of your life. Although you received God’s help materially through Angels in the field, all farmers are aided spiritually to see the wonders God has strewn on this earth. Encourage all farmers in their labors and help them to feed numerous people. Amen.
Looking at the whole picture

Fr. Christopher Kubat
Executive Director

Last year I received a nice letter from Anthony ‘Tony’ Becker, who lives with his daughter Susan, regarding the donation of a matching set of candlesticks and crucifix. Knowing we have chapels in all of our fixed sites, St. Isidore Center in Imperial, St. John Vianney Center in Hastings, Immaculate Heart Counseling Center in Lincoln (which has many satellite clinics across the diocese) and the St. Francis Center in Auburn, he thought we could use it.

After the passage of some time, I received a nice call from his daughter Susan wondering if I was ever coming over to pick these items up. I answered in the affirmative and scheduled a time to come over.

After entering their home I noticed a plate of cookies and banana bread waiting for me along with a recording of myself offering a TV Mass on the HD screen. I had never watched myself offer Mass on a recording and immediately thought, ‘That priest needs to slow down!’

I had my choice of what beverage to drink, and naturally I chose a root beer float. Who wouldn’t if given the choice? After a wonderful conversation I received a tour of the house during which I noticed I am on Tony’s ‘wall of fame’ of his favorite priests in his bedroom. However, I feel quite confident that the other priests featured never were invited over for a root beer float or cookies or freshly-baked banana bread, not separate, but all together! After leaving with the box filled with the above mentioned items and a few others, I felt grateful to Tony and Susan for the generosity of the gift for one of our chapels and the act of kindness because of the snacks and float.

It was a reminder to me to re-iterate to our patrons that we not only are in need of spiritual gifts of prayers and penances and financial gifts of money, but also of material gifts- some of which are sold and the profits used to fund our many programs, or given away to needy individuals or families. In the case of the gifts mentioned above, we hope to use them in a chapel setting.

Please consider helping us spiritually with your prayers and penances, materially with items around your home or farm not needed and a cash donation according to your means so we can continue fulfilling the gospel mandate given to us by Jesus Christ loving Himself present in the poor as outlined in the gospel of Matthew chapter 25, verses 31 to 46. Please be assured of our prayers for you, your family and your intentions.

Fr. Christopher Kubat
Executive Director

Glory Be

Dr. Aaron Stratman
Director of Clinical Services

Have you ever stopped and reflected about the way God actually sees us? Recently, I have been working with several people on developing the virtue of humility. From a Christian perspective, humility can be described as seeing oneself the same way that God sees you. A person should not see themselves as too good or too bad. The idea is that true humility lies in the middle between pride and self-degradation. Individuals tend to develop their own internal view of themselves based on their experiences. Depending on the way the information is presented, we will either adapt the information and change the way we think, or we will reject the information and keep thinking about ourselves the same way. Unless we practice, we do not tend to include God’s perspective of us in our own self-image.

So, how can we know what God’s perspective is? Of course, the first place to look is the Church because Christ promised to be with us to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20). And the Catechism paragraph 890 states, “It is this Magisterium’s task to preserve God’s people from deviations and dejections and to guarantee them the objective possibility of professing the true faith without error. Thus, the pastoral duty of the Magisterium is aimed at seeing to it that the People of God abides in the truth that liberates.” Clearly, when we think about the transmission of teaching, we know in a special way that the Church has preserved the Word of God in the Bible. At the bottom of this page are some reflections from Holy Scripture that can guide the way we look at ourselves and encourage us when we are feeling low. My hope is that we can use these passages to correct the way we think about ourselves. God is reaching out to us in a real, accessible way.

Doubts will come as we read the Bible. Many will try to say that God did not mean that verse for them. One way I have found to prevent people from discounting these loving gifts from our Father is to remind them to say the Glory Be when they begin to doubt that God meant these verses for them. The words to this short prayer have so much meaning and can provide such reassurance. They provide us with a secure attachment figure Who is all-knowing, infinite, and eternal. He will always be there for us and His opinion of us does not waiver. Even when He feels far away, He is always there: “...As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be...” If we can just attach ourselves to God, we will find someone who knows everything about us and loves us with a love beyond our understanding. We can model our treatment of others after the way God treats us... “that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8).

Again, let’s renew our devotion to this short prayer and no longer use it for convenience, but rather use it to remind ourselves of the great love the Father has for his children!

Scriptural Reminders of God’s view

(There are more):
1 John 3:1-3
Isaiah 41:10
Isaiah 43:4
1 Corinthians 2:9
Psalm 46:10
John 17:23
Psalm 139:44
Joshua 1:9
Romans 8:15-17
Romans 8:35-39
Coming soon: Gianna’s Java & Gelato
A tasty way to support Catholic Social Services

Gianna’s Java & Gelato
Good coffee. Good food. Great cause.

Friarworks tent at 23rd & O Street!
Thank you to all who supported our Fish Fry in the past. We hope you get a chance to sample what will be in store for you at our coffee and gelato shop. And stay tuned, we will soon be announcing the opening of Gianna’s Java & Gelato!

CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Auction to honor John Hanigan

On Friday, August 14th, Hillcrest Country Club in Lincoln will host the 19th annual Catholic Social Services Memorial Golf Classic & Auction. A major fundraiser for the programs of Catholic Social Services, this event has become one of the largest charity golf events in the area. This year’s tournament will be held in memory of John Hanigan. Last year, over 280 golfers from across the diocese participated in the tournament and more than 300 individuals attended the cookout and auction, raising approximately $78,000.

“Burgers, ‘Brats & Biddin’!” is the cookout and auction that is held in conjunction with the CSS Memorial Golf Classic. The event begins at 6:00 PM the day of the golf tournament and is open to all golfers and a guest; the general public is invited to attend the auction and bid on items.

There are numerous ways to help support this important fundraiser for Catholic Social Services:

• Corporate Teams: The $520 entry fee allows for a foursome, coffee, and lunch. The fee also allows each golfer and a guest to attend the cookout and auction.
• Parish Teams: The $390 entry fee allows at least one priest as there is no charge for priests to play. The fee also allows each golfer and a guest to attend the cookout and auction.

Teams can choose to play in the morning (7:00 AM start) or afternoon flight (1:00 PM start), depending on availability. Whether playing in the morning or afternoon flight, all players and a guest are invited to the cookout and silent auction for no additional charge.

• Hole Sponsor: The $200 donation allows your name, company name or parish organization to appear at a tee-box during the tournament.
• Priest Sponsor: The $75 donation underwrites the cost for a priest to play in the tournament.
• Memorial Gift: A memorial gift may be made to Catholic Social Services in honor of a loved one.
• Auction Gift: You may donate an item or service to be offered on the silent or live auction. A day at your cabin, antiques or cash are just some ways that you can donate.

Not a golfer? You can still participate in the silent auction! Again this year, all bidding will take place via your smart phone! Visit www.cssisus.org to see how you can participate in the fun and bidding!

All sponsors will be recognized in the tournament program and in an ad in the Southern Nebraska Register. Registration deadline is August 1st. For more information call John McDermott at (402) 430-5626 or (800) 981-8242. The registration form is also available on our website at www.cssisus.org.
Social Services

Win a Pair of Nebraska Football 2015 Season Tickets!

It’s the dream of every Husker football fan—having a pair of your own season tickets! Here’s how that dream could come true: In conjunction with the CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Auction, we’re selling raffle tickets for two 2015 Nebraska football season tickets! Raffle tickets are 1 for $10.00 or 3 for $20.00. Just print this form, fill out the information below and send it to us in the enclosed remit envelope 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. See the form below for more details.

Tickets can also be purchased at our CSS offices and Gift & Thrift Stores in Lincoln, Hastings and Auburn. The winner will be drawn at the CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Auction at Hillcrest Country Club on Friday, August 14, 2015. 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! Visit our website at www.cssisus.org for a complete set of raffle rules. Good luck!

Nebraska football season ticket raffle ticket order form

Name__________________________________________________________________
Address________________________________________________________________City _______________ State_____ Zip______Phone___________Cell______________# Of Tickets _________ Amount enclosed__________

Please make checks payable to Catholic Social Services. Mail orders must be received by Thursday, August 13, 2015 in order to be included in the drawing. 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 our website at www.cssisus.org for complete set of rules.

CSS is US!

Win a Pair of Nebraska Football 2015 Season Tickets!

Social Services

Restoring their faith in the goodness of humanity
Drew Miller, Refugee Case Manager

Catholic Social Services has been resettling refugees and their families from all around the world for generations. These families have been forced from their homes due to religious, ethnic, or political persecution, each arriving with their own unique story of perseverance and strength. Lincoln becomes the starting point for a new life, one filled with the bright opportunities many of these families have ever been capable of taking advantage of. Serving the most basic needs of the families we resettle is the foundation of starting a new, meaningful life in America. After many of our families have lived decades in poverty, it is imperative to secure proper shelter, food, and health care upon arrival. Our donors that provide items such as furniture, food, and household supplies make it possible for our families to arrive in Lincoln and immediately have a warm bed to sleep in and a kitchen full of supplies and food. For some, this is their first time living in a shelter with four walls and a roof.

But Blessed Mother Teresa of Kolkata calls each of us to live a much more intimate life among the poor through serving their spiritual needs through a life of advocacy and love. Although providing for a vast amount of basic needs is important during the first three months of resettlement, we are called to support our families through much more than donated goods and services. In response to this call, Catholic Social Services’ Department of Refugee Resettlement launched a program called Lincoln Friends of Refugees in the fall of 2014. This initiative is designed to create mutually beneficial relationships between dedicated volunteers and refugees. Every week, volunteers of all ages and backgrounds step into the welcoming homes of refugees from Iraq, Burma, Afghanistan, and Sudan and spend time with the families. Whether the activity is English homework, learning to count money, or walking to the ice cream store, the friendships that have been created through this program have been lasting. Moreover, both the refugees as well as the volunteers are able to share their rich cultural history in a personal and meaningful way.

In a world filled with war, violence, and poverty, Christ calls each of His own to serve those in need in a special way. Refugee resettlement is more than simply providing a new, safe home for our families. It is about sharing Christ’s unconditional love for our neighbors and restoring their faith in the goodness of humanity. If you are interested in becoming a part of Lincoln Friends of Refugees, please contact Drew Miller at 402-327-6244 or email: dmiller@cssisus.org.

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