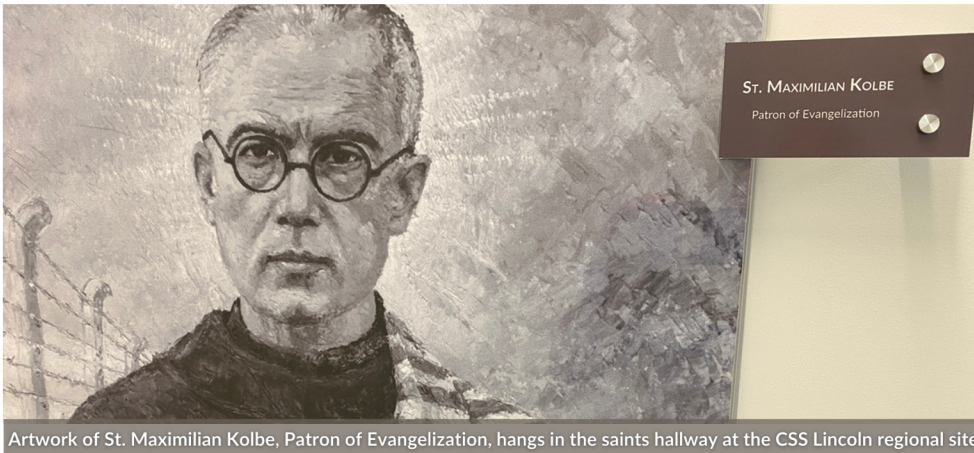




# CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

## Hope in the Good Life

August 2025



St. Maximilian Kolbe | CSS Marketing & Development

## Missionary of the pen

St. Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Franciscan priest, is most remembered for his Christ-like sacrifice of offering his life in place of another prisoner at Auschwitz. Before war broke out in Europe, he dedicated his life to evangelization through modern media and deep devotion to the Virgin Mary.

St. Maximilian Kolbe recognized early on the power of modern media for evangelization. In 1936, he traveled to Berlin during the Olympic Games—not to watch sports, but to explore a technology exhibit showcasing the emerging medium of television. There, he stated, “While building churches that are beautiful and spacious is important, without Catholic media, these churches will be empty.”

Kolbe founded the “City of Mary,” a religious community that became a hub for Catholic media. He launched The Knight of the Immaculate, a magazine that reached over 1 million readers, and in 1938 established Poland’s first Catholic radio station. It’s interesting to note that the radio

frequency of that station, which is still broadcasting to this day, is 102.7. This is the same radio frequency for Spirit Catholic Radio in Lincoln.

Kolbe dreamed of expanding into television and film, with the aim of spreading the Gospel globally. **He referred to himself as a “missionary of the pen,” reflecting his embrace of media as a means to evangelize—an approach that has had an influence on Catholic Social Services (CSS).**

St. Maximilian Kolbe is one of two patron saints of the CSS Marketing & Development department (St. Anthony of Padua, Generator of Charity, being the other). Created in 1994 as the Department of Charity & Evangelization, its main role is to build support for CSS, including fundraising through direct mail appeals and the Celebration of Hope banquet which began in 1988. The department also raises awareness of

(Continued on back page)

August is  
**Make-A-Will**  
Month

### Make a Will, Make an Impact on Hope!

By creating your will, you can make a meaningful difference for all close to your heart. An up-to-date will is an essential way to:

- Protect your loved ones
- Ensure your assets support the people and organizations you care about
- Build a lasting legacy of hope for generations to come

We’ve partnered with FreeWill so you can easily participate in Make-A-Will Month. Their trusted online platform guides you through writing your will in as little as 20 minutes at no cost. Including a gift to CSS is not required, but will secure your legacy of supporting Hope in the Good Life!

Make an impact on all you care about this August and beyond!

Scan the QR code or contact John Soukup at [jsoukup@csshope.org](mailto:jsoukup@csshope.org)





PO Box 30425  
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## #HopeintheGoodLife

### *Missionary of the pen (cont.)*

not only the needs and programs of CSS, but also provides stories about the saints and our Catholic culture.

As the way people get information has changed and grown over the years, so have the fundraising and evangelization efforts of CSS. Now called Marketing & Development, the department continues to raise funds and evangelize through direct mail and events. But as media and technology has evolved, the department has added website, electronic newsletters and mailings, social media, and podcasts to the array of fundraising and evangelization tools. **This strategy has been shaped by St. Maximilian Kolbe's embracement of modern media as a powerful tool of evangelization.**

Late last year, we shared a publications survey with our supporters. We asked for feedback on everything, including topics, frequency, and what format (print, electronic) they prefer to receive from CSS.

We appreciate the thoughtful, honest insight we received from our readers, and are excited to unveil our revamped and revitalized publication plan.

Our *Hope in the Good Life Newsletter* will soon expand in content and publish every two months (rather than monthly via the mail and digitally). Each issue will provide stories on our programs and those we serve, updates from our Auburn, Hastings, Imperial, and Lincoln sites, and insight from CSS Executive Director Katie Patrick. We're bringing back our "Refrigerator Reference" insert, intended to be placed on your refrigerator for reference (thus the name), listing upcoming CSS events, ways to get involved with CSS, plus insightful and inspiring Catholic culture content. In the month when *Hope in the Good Life* is not published, an exclusively digital CSS update will be sent. Inspired by your guidance and with your faithful support, **we're blessed to share content crafted by our agency's "missionaries of the pen" team in our newly expanded flagship publication starting next month. See you then!**

To sign up for the digital CSS updates, visit [csshope.org/connect](https://csshope.org/connect).



CATHOLIC  
SOCIAL SERVICES  
29TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL  
GOLF CLASSIC & COOKOUT  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025  
HILLCREST C.C. LINCOLN, NE

## 29th Annual CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Cookout to be held in memory of Tony Messineo

Tee it up! The 29th annual CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Cookout is slated for Monday, 9/15 at Hillcrest Country Club in Lincoln. This year's event is held in memory of Tony Messineo. Tony was more than a successful businessman and servant leader. With a deep devotion to his faith and family, Tony's legacy reaches far beyond the restaurant world where his lasting impact continues to uplift lives.

The morning flight begins at 7:00 AM, the afternoon flight is at 1:00 PM. Team fees include carts, lunch, and a cookout for golfers/and a guest at 6:00 PM. **To register or for more information on hole sponsorships, priest sponsorships or to make a gift in memory of Tony, scan the QR code or call (402) 430-5626. Space is limited!**

