



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

Hope in the Good Life

October 2023

Saints Zelig & Louis Martin/Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Month

“We shall find our little ones again up above.”

There is nothing that pierces one’s heart like the loss of a child. Dealing with the loss of a little one is difficult enough; dealing with losing four children is unimaginable. Such was the pain endured by Sts. Zelig and Louis Martin.

On October 18, 2015, Zelig and Louis Martin were the first married couple to be canonized together. Living in Alençon, France, the Martins were married for nineteen years before Zelig’s death from breast cancer in 1877.

They were blessed with nine children. Five daughters became nuns- including St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Tragically, four of their children (two boys and two girls) died as infants or small children. As painful as these losses were, it is inspiring to see how the Martin family coped with their pain. The four children that were lost were as much a part of the Martin family as their living children. Zelig



and Louis were so intent on instilling this awareness in their living children that St. Thérèse wrote that her brothers and sisters were instrumental in her vocation story. Zelig in particular had such a

beautiful perspective on the loss of their young children.

She famously said, “We shall find our little ones again up above.”

Many couples suffering pregnancy or infant loss have found comfort in these

words. One such couple is Catholic Social Services Executive Director Katie Patrick and her husband Ryan.

On November 7, 2020, Katie and Ryan lost their infant daughter Imogen Rose. As Ryan writes, “There can be nothing more excruciatingly contradictory to a Christian than the death of a child. Nothing can be a more brutally cold reminder of the pain that resides in this world, and

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IMPERIAL REGION

CSS Imperial's Family Support Services program supports **HOPE IN THE GOOD LIFE** in many ways, including:

RENT ASSISTANCE
for a neighbor, unable to work due to multiple mental health diagnoses, whose husband’s job didn’t pay well enough to cover the amount.

WINTER HEATING BILL

for a senior neighbor, injured on the job, after workman’s comp didn’t pay enough to cover all her bills. *She’d never asked for help before. It was very humbling to her. She was very grateful.*

UNPLANNED EXPENSES

for a grieving neighbor after her young fiancée passed away- *performing a true Work of Mercy.*

IMMEDIATE SUPPLIES

for a family with two small children *(and another one on the way)* whose house burned down.



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#HopeintheGoodLife

"We shall find our littles ones again up above"
(continued)

the beauty that sits beside it. We who are still here afterward are flooded with pain and grief at the loss of innocent life, while our faith tells us that those innocent lost would be confused by our tears as they dance and bathe in the beatific vision, holding the hands of Christ, never once having to wonder and worry through life if they would ever get there."

After losing Imogen, Katie and Ryan decided to create a resource guide for refugee and immigrant families who have experienced a pregnancy or infant loss. The guide is translated into Arabic, Dari, French, Karen, Mandarin, Pashto, Spanish, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese. In the guide, Katie and Ryan write, "As you read our perspective as Christian parents, please know that all of the resources in this handout are available to you regardless of your faith practice. We only seek to share our experience with you in this way, to express our sorrow and compassion for your loss, and our hope that someday you will see your little one once again."

The booklet can be found on our website at csshope.org/publications. Imogen Rose, pray for us!

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES IMPERIAL & ST. ISIDORE GIFT & THRIFT'S TRIVIA NIGHT

Tease your brain, have fun, & celebrate the work of Catholic Social Services in southwest Nebraska!

Friday 11.10.23 | 7PM
Nutrien Ag Building
Chase County Fairgrounds
560 Park St. | Imperial
LIMITED TO 20 TEAMS

\$150/ 6 person team
Includes snacks & door prizes | Participants must be 18+

\$25 "cheer & jeer" section
Includes snacks & fun! | Buy tickets at St. Isidore G&T or at the door

Cash bar | Silent Auction | Prizes: 1st & 2nd place
Join the fun! Register your team by 11.3.23 at csshope.org/TriviaNight