

Catholic Social Services  
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(S.A.G)



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to remember who he was. John had made it south like he hoped and escaped the cold winters of the Midwest. But now he was calling for prayers. As I write this, Hurricane Irma is two days away from the Florida coastline and John is in a shelter on Key West. John said he has lived on the streets for a number of years. He has lived through tornadoes and has never been scared; but he was scared now. The shelter he was staying at was only rated to survive a category 3 hurricane and as I write this story Irma is a category 5 with the potential for massive destruction in the Florida Keys. He says he kept our number because we treated him like a person. Not very many people did that, he said. Now he wanted the people who treated him with dignity to remember him in prayer. I assured John that I and many others would be praying for his safety. We offered prayers for John at Mass this morning. As this article comes to an end, I can't tell you that there is a happy ending. I don't know what the ending will be as the storm is still a day or two away. All I can do is pray for John's safety and take away the lesson that we have no idea of the

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# Patron

The Quarterly Newsletter of Catholic Social Services Of Southern Nebraska

## Showing just a little love can often make a big difference

*Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia. Has risen, as he said, alleluia. Pray for us to God, alleluia.*

*Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia. Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen. -REGINA CAELI*

**“T**herefore encourage one another and build each other up.”  
*-1 Thessalonians 5:11*

John had come to Nebraska three years ago. For the last year and a half he was living on the streets taking shelter under the bridges at night. We met John when we were passing out water to the homeless on a hot afternoon in July of 2016. We probably saw him four or five more times that summer; we gave him a couple of sleeping bags, some clothes, and water when it was hot. Each time we saw John we would spend 5-10 minutes sitting on the ground in the shade under the bridge just talking. Sometimes he would talk about his life and how he came to be homeless in Lincoln, Nebraska. Other times our talks would be trivial; the weather, who was going to win the World Series



and were the Huskers going to be any good the next season (okay, whether the Huskers are going to have a good season isn't trivial!). John was always taken aback that we would sit on the ground in our work clothes and take the time to simply visit and get to know him, but he seemed to enjoy it. One day in mid-September he came up to our offices and told me that he couldn't take another Nebraska winter on the streets and was going to head south. He just wanted to stop by and thank us for all we did for him. Remember, all we did for him was give him a couple sleeping bags, some pants, shirts, six or seven bottles of water and perhaps a grand total of 30 minutes of companionship.

Last night, right before we closed, John called. I must be honest it took me a while

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# It's all about love and trust

**Fr. Christopher Kubat**  
Executive Director



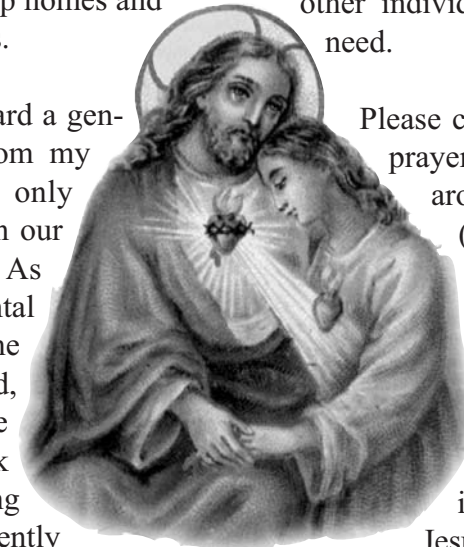
Have you ever wondered what happens to children when they become adults who have developmental disabilities and mental diseases? Some end up living with family and friends, others in group homes and still others homeless and on the streets.

One morning several weeks ago, I heard a gentle tap on our side door, not far from my office. Since it was an employee only entrance, I thought it was someone on our staff who had forgotten their key card. As it turned out, it was a woman with mental disease who is entering middle-age. She pointed toward her mouth and said, "Food!" I believe it may be the same woman who quietly helped me pick weeds out of our back gravel parking lot. She saw me picking weeds and silently started helping behind my back. I did not know she was there until I turned around. As it turns out, she comes to us every month or two always asking for food. It's fortunate that she lives with another woman who looks after her.

by group home. He comes to our office every day for a cup of hot coffee and a bag of day-old wheat bread. If it isn't wheat, he will not take it. He loves to critique the coffee but most of all, talk with our staff. We all know him by his first name. He even stops by the office on the weekends to see if I am at the office. He loves to make two or three word comments about current events.

There is another woman, in her early adult years, with mental disease. Several times a year she is asked to leave her parents home because of behavior issues. To prevent her from living on the streets, we placed her in a motel for a few days after which she returns home.

These are just a few people with mental issues who come to us on a regular basis because they trust us - because we love them. It is only because of the generosity of our donors that we are able to help them along with the many other individuals and families who come to us in need.



Please consider helping us spiritually with your prayers and penances, materially with items around your home of farm, not needed (including vehicles), and a cash donation according to your means so we can continue to help the many individuals and families who come to us in need.

Please know that we at Catholic Social Services will keep you, your family and intentions in our prayers! Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us, Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us. St. Joseph and our patron angels and saints, pray for us!!

*Fr. Christopher Kubat*

Fr. Christopher Kubat  
Executive Director

## COLDER WEATHER BRINGS NEED FOR COATS

Is there anything more unpredictable than Nebraska weather? Fall is coming, but we never know how soon the really cold temperatures will arrive. Every year around the holidays, our generous donors always come through with donations of coats, hats and gloves for those in need. But often, the cold north winds begin blowing well before Thanksgiving, and we need to be ready to meet the demand to stay warm. We are in need of children's and men's hats, mittens, gloves and coats. As you go through your closets this



# My mother, the Queen

**Dr. Kathryn Benes**  
Director of Counseling Services

I love this time of year! The morning air is crisp; the hot summer days give way to much milder temperatures. The Marian gardens planted in the spring bless us with more brilliant blooms, just one last time, before they begin to fade and the leaves take on their beautiful autumn colors. But, the main reason I love this time of year is because the Church calendar provides so many opportunities to celebrate our Blessed Mother.

In fact, if you Google Marian Celebrations, you'll find that every day in August, September and October (as well as all the other months of the year!) are days that we can celebrate the great gift of our Mother. There are the well-known days, such as August 15th, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven; September 8th, the Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary; and all of October is dedicated to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. One of my favorite Marian celebrations, however, is August 22nd – Feast of the Queenship of Mary, Regina Caeli (Traditionally, the Immaculate Heart of Mary). It reminds us of Mary as a powerful intercessor.

In biblical times, the Davidic tradition recognized the

The title of Queen to describe Mary dates back to at least the fourth century when St. Ephrem identified her as "Lady" and "Queen", and this royal distinction has only grown throughout our Church history. But we, her children, not only see her as a Queen and Holy Intercessor, we see her as much more – our Mother.



While the title of "queen" often conjures up images of royal palaces, silk gowns, jewels, and inaccessibility, our Queen carried out her earthly royal duties in an obscure manner in the small village of Nazareth. When I think of her Queenship, I think of her dressed in the rude woven garment of a Jewish peasant woman, interceding for a poor couple who had run out of wine at their wedding feast in Cana. Her royal title was marked by great love and quiet magnanimity, culminating in her blessed assumption into heaven.

Although Queen of Heaven, I don't see my Blessed Mother as inaccessible. When I run to her to ask for her intercession, I envision Mary seated, waiting for me to kneel down beside her and place my head within the folds of her woven garment to listen to her beloved