

The Impressive Challenge of Faith-Integration

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us, I ask for your prayerful support in two key areas: Please pray for us, for our desire for authentic integration, and for our efforts to support you, our brothers and sisters in Christ, more effectively. Whether we conduct psychological evaluations, provide trauma-informed care, work with behavioral problems, depression, general anxiety, social anxiety, marital conflict or a host of other mental health issues, may we never forget our Catholic identity. It is ultimately God who heals and his grace that transforms us, our work and those we serve.

Please also pray that our efforts are guided by a faith-integrated vision. As mental health practitioners, there is an ever-present temptation to focus on an active love of neighbor through psychotherapy strategies to the exclusion of a more contemplative and prayerful love

of God who gives us our mission and strength. We can easily become social service do-gooders, indistinguishable from others in our field, rather than intentional Christian disciples who are called to serve those with psychological issues. Your important support will help us with this challenge. Indeed, if we are called to labor in the vineyard of the Lord, we must labor to always remember the Lord of the vineyard.

Save the Date
Catholic Social Services
Celebration of Caring Banquet
Sunday, February 18, 2018

NEW LOCATION:
Embassy Suites
1040 P St. Lincoln

Visit our website at:
www.csssus.org



(S.A.G.)



Catholic Social Services
2241 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

Patron

The Quarterly Newsletter of Catholic Social Services Of Southern Nebraska

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

-John 3:16-17



Our One Endless Resource

“He has made you in his image that you might in your person make the invisible Creator present on earth; he has made you his legate, so that the vast empire of the world might have the Lord’s representative.”

-From a Christmas sermon by St. Peter Chrysologus, bishop.

That is a lot to live up to, and yet we see countless examples in all of our offices of people acting as the Lord’s representative. The wonderful people who helped clean our flooded building in Auburn when a pipe broke, the Boy Scouts in Hastings who collected almost 6,000 pounds of food for our pantry; the many church groups who sew blankets for the homeless and the families at St. Gianna’s; the 96 year-old man who sits in our lobby in Lincoln every afternoon and visits with clients who come for assistance and hands out rosaries: these are just a few of the many samples of people acting out their calling to act as the Lord’s representative.



Walt and Carol Zink, two of our many Sandwich Program volunteers, offer a sack lunch and coffee to a client

We see many broken people come into our offices. Each one of them comes in with their own histories and their own needs. We try to provide whatever healing we can with the resources we have available. The greatest resource we have is the hearts of our staff and volunteers. The material and financial assistance we give is a vital Band-Aid for the

short term needs of the client. But it’s the love that is given by our staff and volunteers that makes “the invisible Creator present on earth.” Love is the resource that we never run out of, and love is the gift that provides the long-term healing. This holiday season we are going to provide Thanksgiving dinners for hundreds of families and

Christmas presents to thousands of kids across the diocese. Each one of these people will be shown Christ’s love when they receive their food or gifts. Loving Christ in the poor is what provides “the vast empire of the world the Lord’s representative.” Thank you for loving Christ in the poor and have a blessed Advent and Christmas season.

-Curt Krueger

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Going Fishing

Fr. Christopher Kubat
Executive Director
Catholic Social Services



Last year, while talking to two gentlemen along the bike trail by our St. Joseph Center, I encouraged them in their quest to find employment. My approach is always meeting them where they are and ultimately leading them to Jesus. Sometimes they are surprised that I stop to talk because I have been told that people avoid them like a leper. On one occasion, a homeless man asked me what I saw when looking at him. I said Jesus.

Recently after a jog I sat down by the man-made pond between our office and the Devaney Center to wind down. A young man immediately greeted me and asked, "Remember me?" After looking in his eyes my memory started churning and after a few seconds I remembered meeting him, and another man around a year ago, as they compared notes.

Not having much luck a year ago, he heard about a job on a fishing boat in Alaska and somehow made the

long trek. He now works seasonally on a boat of 75 men working 16 hours each day for four months at a time with breaks in between. He is now able to make enough money to support his wife and three small boys. Knowing it is not good to be separated for prolonged periods from his family he will not be working this job for much longer. I admire his ingenuity in his efforts at finding employment. As we sat and talked, I thought he is now able to encourage others living on the streets to do whatever it takes to exit homelessness.

I too love fishing, sometimes for fish but mostly for men and women young and old, who are out of the boat called the Catholic Church. Please consider helping us spiritually with your prayers and penances, materially with items around your home or farm not needed (including coats and other cold weather items), and a cash donation as we continue to love and serve the many needy individuals and families who come to us in need, including homeless people that are living on the streets and sleeping in abandoned buildings, cars and under bridges.

Please know that we at Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska will keep you, your family and intentions in our prayers especially during this most holy time of year in which we celebrate the birth of Christ the Lord Who was born in utter poverty, Who said as an adult, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head." (Mt 8:20) Have a blessed and Merry Christmas, Christmas season and New Year!

Fr. Christopher Kubat



The Impressive Challenge of Faith-Integration

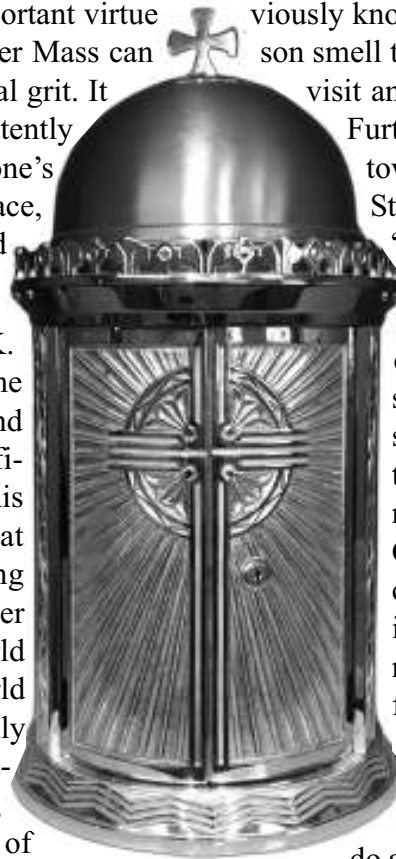
Dr. Peter Martin

Licensed Psychologist

Internship Director of Integrated Training and Formation

Integrating one's faith well with practically anything can be hard work. Fueling oneself with the Holy Eucharist on Sunday and allowing it to transform the 6 days and 23 hours outside of Mass is anything but basic if it is to be done well and with authentic Catholic vigor. Even practicing the crucially important virtue of patience in the parish parking lot after Mass can be, for some, a herculean test of spiritual grit. It is by no means a small task to consistently allow grace to inform and transform one's life so it permeates one's home, workplace, or even the encounter with the fast food drive-thru employee.

This struggle calls to mind one of G.K. Chesterton's many famous lines: "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult, and left untried." Perhaps we had his wisdom in mind when employees at CSS's Immaculate Heart Counseling Center (IHCC) once pondered the rather eccentric comparison of Disney World and IHCC. True story! At Disney World (so I've heard, since I've never actually been there), the experience of the vacationer is thoroughly and completely, well, Disney. Even its employees' style of saying goodbye has a particularly endemic ring to it: "Have a magical day!" The designers and employees of Disney World go to great and meticulous lengths to astound visitors with an experience unlike they've ever had elsewhere. The hope is that it will be a breathtaking, otherworldly experience where previous conceptions of how to feel, behave, dress and relate with others are discarded to make room for an exquisite red carpet treatment and a feast of the senses.



Why compare IHCC's offerings to Disney World? The question was posed: Is Catholic Social Services' IHCC more Catholic than Disney World is Disney? Said differently, would an IHCC client feel like they had been transported to a place entirely different than their previously known world of experience? Would this person smell the veritable "aroma of Christ" during the visit and see him in those who serve the client?

Further, would the experience of the client toward IHCC employees be like that which St. Patrick describes on his breastplate: "Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me." Perhaps this would not be the case! What if the client experienced IHCC as more of an external shell of Catholicism, with clinicians and support staff who merely happen to wear the title of Christian like a thin glaze rather than authentic and deliberate Christian-integrated servants to their core. Would the interior decor of our clinic with its religious icons and statuary merely be a deceptive guise offering a false impression of what IHCC actually is? On the contrary, perhaps they are valid and explicit examples of a vibrant Catholic ethos that pervades all that we do and distinguishes us from a standard, non-Christian clinic? In a word, is IHCC unremarkably common or refreshingly unique in its Catholicity?

Our unrelenting hope is to be thoroughly Catholic, integrating virtue and the healing transcendentals (beauty, truth, goodness) of our faith to those open to them. Thus, we will continue to ponder these questions and develop practical answers as we provide psychological services for the Diocese of Lincoln. To assist

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With your help, the CSS Christmas Programs will again serve thousands

Throughout the year, the number of families and individuals who contact our Social Services offices remains fairly constant. However, the onset of colder weather and the holidays marks the time of year that we experience the highest amount of requests for help. In an effort to meet the demand during the holidays, the Catholic Social Services Christmas Programs provide gifts to thousands of individuals across southern Nebraska each year. Through our Hastings, Lincoln and Auburn offices, we provide gifts and food baskets for families, children and individuals who might otherwise go without during the holidays. Our ability to provide to those in need through these programs relies greatly on the generosity of our donors and volunteers. Our programs include:

♦**KFOR Operation Santa Claus.** For years, we have participated in Lincoln radio station KFOR's Operation Santa Claus. Clients fill out applications at our office requesting specific items for their children. The requests are sent to KFOR, who place them on area "Giving Trees." The donated presents are delivered to our office, where clients pick them up.

♦**The St. Nicholas Toy Shoppe.** Catholic Social Services works with coordinators at participating parishes to randomly select the age and gender of the child and a toy for children twelve and younger. The toys received are taken to the St. Nicholas Toy Shoppe, located at the CSS offices in the St. Joseph Center at 2241 O Street. The Toy Shoppe will be open on

Wednesday, December 21st from 9am-Noon and 1-6pm. Customers may pick out one new toy and one stocking stuffer for each of their children. Last year, the St. Nicholas Toy Shoppe provided toys for over 3,000 children.

♦**Adopt-A-Family.** Individuals, families and groups can adopt a family. Mostly gifts are purchased, but a food basket can be given. The maximum value of each gift is \$25 per person.

♦**Good Angel Trees Program.** In Hastings, St. Cecilia and St. Michael parishes, along with St. Ann parish in Doniphan, provide gifts and food baskets to needy families in the area. Each parish puts up a christmas tree and places "angels" on the tree with suggestions for gifts for children from baby to 12 years of age. Parishioners purchase gifts and food baskets and return them to the church. Toys are organized for needy families to choose a gift for each of their children and have them gift wrapped by volunteers. Families also receive a food basket from either the Good Angel Program or from Catholic Social Services.

If you, your family or organization would like to assist in one of this year's Christmas Programs, call Curt Krueger at (402) 474-1600 or (800) 981-8242. God bless you for helping make the holidays a little brighter for families and individuals in need across southern Nebraska!



Staff and volunteers await clients at last year's CSS Toy Shoppe



The Refrigerator Reference Series

Useful Tips To Help You And Your Family Live Our Catholic Faith

16670

Advent/Christmas 2017

Send a message of hope this season

The holidays can seem like a stressful time of the year: there's the shopping to be done, decorating to do and parties and gatherings to attend. But for those who come to us for assistance, the stress is real. We see in their faces the anxiety of not knowing if they will be able to provide even the basics for their family this Christmas. Though not everyone may be in a position to help with a monetary gift, everyone can help by offering a word of encouragement or prayer this season. Once again, we are offering you and your family the opportunity to send a special holiday message of hope.

may be their only Christmas gift. Please take a moment to write a Christmas note to someone who will receive our help this year. You can write your note on the card below, cut along the dotted line, fold it along the solid line and send it to us in the enclosed remittance envelope. Be it words of encouragement, or a Christmas greeting or prayer, feel free to write whatever you would like. Some have even made their own additional cards and sent them to us. We will distribute these cards through our CSS Toy Shoppe and other Christmas programs.

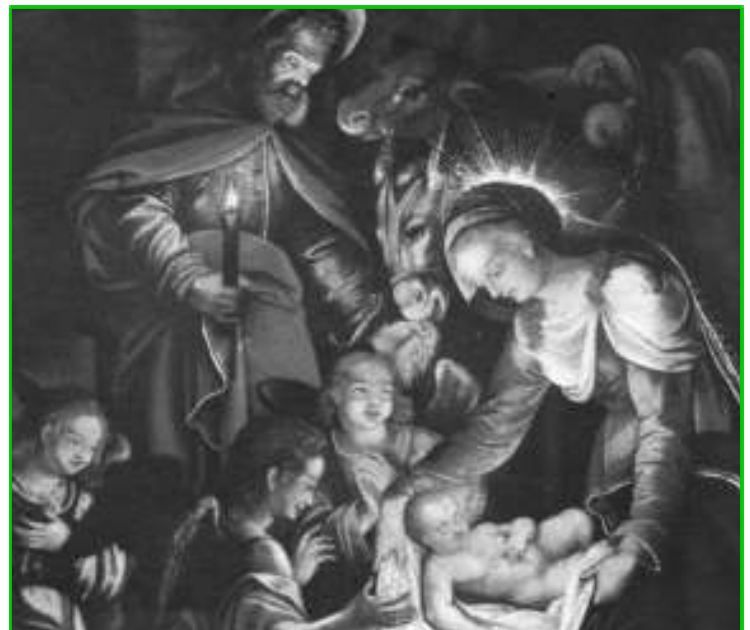


During the month of December, we will distribute Christmas food and gifts to thousands of people across southern Nebraska. Through our Toy Shoppe and Christmas Program, many children will receive what

This is your chance to send a holiday message to someone who might not otherwise receive one; to let them experience the joy that comes from knowing someone is praying for them this Christmas.

Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska

2241 O Street • Lincoln, NE 68510 • (402) 474-1600 • (800) 962-8242 • 3700 Sheridan Blvd. • Lincoln, NE 68510 • (402) 489-1834 • (800) 961-6277 • 333 West Second Street • (402) 463-2112 • Hastings, NE 68901
1014 Central Ave. • Auburn, NE 68305 • (402) 274-4818 • 527 Broadway • Imperial, NE 69033 • (308) 882-3065 • Website: www.csssus.org



The most wonderful time of the year *The holidays are our busiest time, and we are grateful to those who help us perform the Works of Mercy*

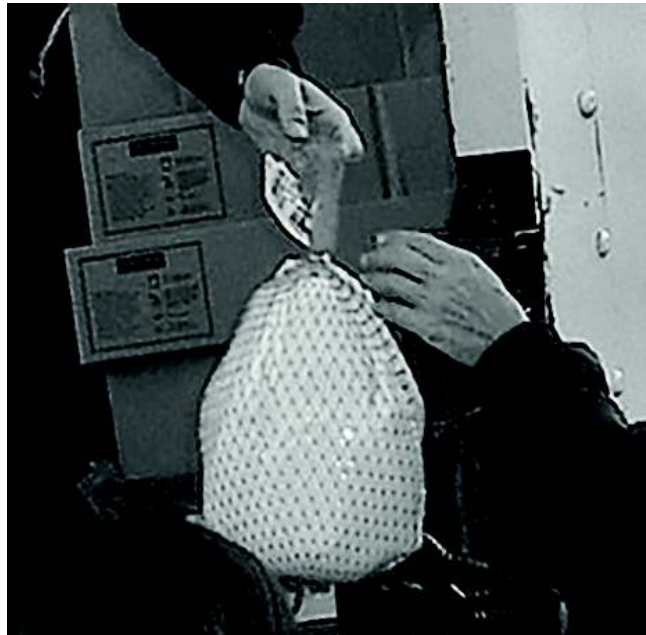
Each day throughout the year, we are blessed to encounter those who are hurting and contact us for help. The numbers at times can be overwhelming. Last year, for example, we provided over \$2,100,000 in cash and in-kind assistance to nearly 29,000 individuals and 10,200 families across southern Nebraska. This represents approximately 160,000 points of contact with our clients.

For the most part, the need is constant throughout the year. But with the weather turning colder and the holidays approaching, we experience a noticeable jump in numbers for requests for assistance at this time of the year. Here is just some of the fun we have during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons:

•Thanks to our generous supporters, we have col-

lected over 17 tons of food for our food pantries.

•We have given away over 250 winter coats and 125 pairs of hats and gloves to needy children.



•We have provided 35 sleeping bags to our homeless friends living on the streets.

•We will provide Thanksgiving dinners for 400 families which is close to 1,000 individuals.

•We will provide toys to more than 3,000 children this Christmas.

Most importantly, because of your great generosity, we have been able to be a reflection of Christ's love to the poor and needy across the entire diocese. Please keep our work, and those we serve, in your prayers during this busy time, and throughout the year. CSS is US!

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government will be upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called*

*"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

-Isaiah 9:6

Make a difference when shopping

Find the perfect gift at a CSS Gift & Thrift Store

Shopping for Christmas gifts can be drudgery. Fighting the crowds at the mall or the big-box stores searching for the perfect Christmas gift can drain the Christmas spirit from anyone. This year, ditch the mobs and check out the great selection of unique items at one of the Catholic Social Services Gift & Thrift Stores. We operate four Gift & Thrift stores: the St. Louise Gift & Thrift Store in Lincoln, the St. Joseph Gift & Thrift Store in Hastings, the St. Francis Gift & Thrift Store in Auburn and our more recent addition to our diocesan-wide chain of stores, the St. Isidore Gift & Thrift in Imperial.



Each location offers a great selection of quality clothing, household items, furniture and more. Individuals who cannot afford items in our

stores can apply to receive items for free through our emergency services programs in all four communities.

All funds raised from the stores, minus minimal administrative costs, are funneled back into our emergency services programs. The items sold at the stores have been donated by generous individuals across Southern Nebraska. We like to think of it as “Giving Squared”- you donate an item to our thrift stores, and we sell it and give the money to the poor. Your gift is “squared” and gives twice: to the person who needed a reduced-cost item, and to a family or individual in need of assistance. Plus, each Gift & Thrift store offers gift cards! Come find that perfect gift at one of our CSS

Gift & Thrift stores this holiday season! Visit www.cssisus.org for store hours.

Gianna’s Java & Gelato- Good Coffee. Good Food. Geat Cause!

If you’re looking to take a break from the crazy pace of the holiday season, we have the perfect place: Gianna’s Java & Gelato, located on our St. Joseph Center campus at 23rd & O in Lincoln. When you take that break at Gianna’s Java & Gelato, you help support our mission of performing the Works of Mercy across southern Nebraska because, just like our Gift & Thrift Stores, all proceeds from the coffee and gelato shop go towards the support of our programs.

Nearly two years ago, some generous donors funded the start up costs for the shop, including the remodeling of existing space at our St. Joseph Center. The result has been a warm, inviting coffee and gelato shop that also features light break-

fast and lunch menus. Our genuine gelato is made on site, and we feature a number of flavors, including such seasonal favorites as pumpkin spice and gingerbread. Take a moment to sit by the fireplace at Gianna’s and warm up with one of our hot drinks, such as the St. Nicholas, a dark chocolate and peppermint bark latte.



Looking for a tasty gift idea? A Gianna’s Java & Gelato gift card is a delicious solution to your gift-giving dilemma! We’ll even give you an additional \$5 gift card when you purchase a \$25 gift card. Take a break during this hectic season and visit Gianna’s Java & Gelato at 23rd and O Street, Lincoln. Good coffee, good food... for a great cause! Contact us at www.gsjavagelato.com or (402) 327-6202.

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