



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

Hope in the Good Life

August 2024

St. Jeanne Jugan/John Brooks

The Spirit of a Disciple in Action

As we approach the feast day of St. Jeanne Jugan on August 30th, we reflect on the impact that a single life dedicated to service can have on the world. Born in Brittany, France, in 1792, St. Jeanne Jugan began her journey of service when she was just a teenager. She was working as a kitchen maid for a family who served the elderly in their community. This early witness of selflessness sparked in her a passion for helping others, and she became a nurse at the local hospital. As she grew older, so did her love of service, and when she caught word of an elderly, blind woman who was suddenly alone after the death of her sister, Jeanne opened up her home to provide full-time care.



Her small acts of compassion turned into a larger mission as Jeanne saw that more people needed help. She founded the Little Sisters of the Poor, and by 1850, Jeanne's order had established six homes for the elderly poor. Today, the Little Sisters of the

Poor continue St. Jeanne's work, through hospitality and service to the elderly. St. Jeanne Jugan's life reminds us that true discipleship requires more than words; it demands action.

This spirit of active, loving service is at the heart of John Brooks, this year's recipient of the Love of Christ Award.

For over 25 years, John has been a longtime volunteer, dedicating a few hours every week to the Hastings food distribution program, packing and handing out lunches. John draws his inspiration from the apostles, who got fed up with listening to endless discussions *about* problems, without ever *solving* those problems. In contrast, the apostles saw these problems and took action. John calls this the "spirit of a disciple".

John embodies this spirit, allowing it to guide his interactions with anyone who comes in for food. "Many times, many people just would like someone to talk to them," John noted, highlighting the importance of the human encounter behind each act of service.

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ONLINE HUSKER TICKET AUCTION! 

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2 Tickets: NEB vs COLORADO SEPT 7 @ 6:30 PM

Our highest bidder will be a part of the electric atmosphere when Coach Prime brings the Buffaloes to Lincoln! Best of all, funds raised support **HOPE IN THE GOOD LIFE** across 24,000 square miles of southern Nebraska.

It's a WIN-WIN (we hope!)

AUCTION OPEN NOW!
Closes 4 pm Weds 9/4

REGISTER | BID | WIN
csshope.org/huskerauction

 

Winners will be notified via phone/email by 5 pm 9/4. Tickets may not be resold.



PO Box 30425
Lincoln NE 68503-0425

#HopeintheGoodLife

The Spirit of a Disciple in Action (cont.)

One of John's favorite memories from his time volunteering involves a young mother and her two daughters who came in for food. The girls were dancing in the corner, and when John walked over to see them, they asked him to join the dancing. He did so, and the room erupted with laughter and joy.

John has loved his experiences working alongside like-minded volunteers and friends, pouring into a calling much bigger than themselves. Throughout his years of service, John has made a significant difference in the lives he has touched in the food program. His example encourages us all to listen to the "spirit of a disciple" and let it lead us to action.

Please join us on Sunday, September 29th, where we will honor John Brooks with the Love of Christ Award at the Bountiful Harvest Banquet.

Check out the FULL interview with **John Brooks** hosted by CSS Development Officer, John Soukup!

Available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Pandora, Soundcloud, and TunesIn

Follow the QR code to listen at csshope.org

Bountiful HARVEST

AN EVENING CELEBRATING AND SUPPORTING THE WORK OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES HASTINGS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2024
HASTINGS CITY AUDITORIUM

400 North Hastings Ave.
Social Time: 5:00 p.m. | Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Silent Auction throughout the evening

Featuring Agency updates, special guest speaker Blake Brouillette, and the presentation of the 2024 Love of Christ Award to John Brooks

FEEDING THE HUNGRY WITH COMPASSION AND COMPANIONSHIP

Secure your seat before September 20!

Register and pay online by visiting csshope.org/BH2024