

## As for me and my house...

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In trying to defend our religious liberty and the freedom to worship for our counselors, we have been accused of “imposing” our Catholic faith on other counselors and abandoning the clients who might be suicidal. Do not let these arguments cloud the true agenda of denying counselors in Nebraska the right to practice their faith by not referring for morally objectionable behaviors. First, impose is defined as, “to put or set on as if by authority.” So, clearly, the boards and psychological associations are imposing their morality on its minority, orthodox Christian members, not the reverse. Besides, I do not believe that trying to “impose” my beliefs on others works. Regarding patient safety and their abandonment, all we would ask a client to do is to make a choice for a new provider who may be able to provide the service. Clearly, the client is empowered to be his own agent of choice in the matter. There is no abandonment. If anything, there should exist a mutual regard borne out of the relationship that existed prior to asking us to provide/refer for a service that is morally objectionable. We care first and foremost about the human person, made in the image and likeness of God, sitting there before us. We do not wish them to do any self-destructive behaviors, and so we would take steps to ensure that they were safe, secure, and understanding of our dilemma. We yearn for them to stop engaging in immoral behavior because we do not believe it is ultimately in their interests to do so. In sum, then the issue is simply a choice that the person would make regarding their next therapist who would likely not mind helping them in some way. To assume that all psychologists or counselors should think, act, feel, behave, and believe the same way seems intolerant to me.

Your prayers are deeply requested for this battle that has continued for four years. I have used more than my allotted space to make you aware of the fundamentals of a very complex issue. If you feel strongly about this article and wish to help in our struggle or join our efforts, please let me know via email or phone. I frequently find myself asking God why he chose a “fisherman” to fight this fight instead of a scholar. God bless you, your families, your friends, and thank you! St. Thomas More, pray for us!



(S.A.G.)



Catholic Social Services  
2241 O Street  
Lincoln, NE 68510



# Patron

The Quarterly Newsletter of Catholic Social Services Of Southern Nebraska

*“Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha.”*

*-John 19:16-17*

## Making Christ’s presence felt to those we serve each day

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” This heart-wrenching cry of Jesus from the cross is repeated by His poor every day. We hear the echoes of that cry at Catholic Social Services from every client we meet. We know that God has not forsaken his poor. We know that God walks with the poor in a very special and close way. When you are struggling day to day to survive, when you are not sure where your next meal is going to come from, or how you are going to keep your apartment heated, or how you can pay for the medicine for your sick baby, it is hard to see God standing with you.



all of their needs being met. It’s simply not possible to meet the needs of everyone who comes to us for assistance, the numbers are too great. We can, however, make Christ’s presence known to those in need if they see Christ in us. We can do that with a smile, with conversation, with a handshake. One of the goals at Catholic Social Services has always been to make sure that each person that comes through our doors is treated as if it were Christ coming through the doors.

For that to be accomplished however, we need help. The social services office in Lincoln is looking for outgoing people who would like to sit in our lobby from 2:00 pm-4:00pm every afternoon and greet people as they come to pick up their food pantries. A “hello” and small talk while people wait for their food pantries brought out to them is a very simple yet very effective way of letting people know they are loved. Please prayerfully consider being Catholic Social Services greeters, help bring Christ’s love to those who are crying out, “My God , my God, why have you forsaken me?”

*-Curt Krueger  
Director of Social Services  
Eastern Sector of the Diocese*

At Catholic Social Services it is part of our job to help make Christ’s presence known to those who are hungry, lonely and frightened. While it is true that one way in which we make Christ’s presence known to those who come to us for help is through our assistance. But I have always believed that we truly make Christ’s presence felt not as much through what we give as through how it is given.

Thousands of people walk through our doors every year, but not all of them walk out with

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**Because of you we could help in 2012**



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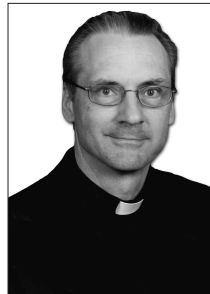
**At the end of the day we give thanks**



**Page 6**

# Come Be My Light

**Fr. Christopher Kubat**  
**Executive Director**  
**Catholic Social Services**



Recently, I finished reading the book entitled, *Mother Teresa, Come Be My Light, the private writings of the "Saint of Calcutta,"* edited and compiled by Father Brian Kolodiejchuk, M.C. It is a collection of letters written by Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta to her spiritual directors, priest and bishops she knew over the years. We can be forever grateful that those to whom she wrote to did not heed her requests that her letters be destroyed. This remarkable work gives us an inner look at one of today's bright lights.

We now know Blessed Mother Teresa endured by the grace of God fifty years of spiritual darkness and desolation with only one brief period of consolation. She endured it all joining her sufferings to Christ for the benefit of others (Col 1:24). In this secular culture described by Blessed John Paul II as a 'culture of death' she is truly a role model for us to imitate and emulate. Her whole life was dedicated to the satiation of the thirst of Jesus Christ for souls (Jn 19:28). This was done by loving Jesus Christ in the poorest of the poor.

During her trip to the United States in the fall of 1995 she visited us at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary. I can testify that in seeing and listening to her one never knew she was experiencing profound darkness. One of the priests who knew her mentioned that on one

occasion while commenting on the second half of the twenty-fifth chapter of Mathew's gospel he told her, "You know Mother, everything we do for the least, we do for Jesus." At that Mother Teresa patted him on the knee with her hand vigorously and exclaimed empathically, "No, no, it's everything that you do for the least you do TO Jesus!" In one of the letters to her fellow sisters, priests and coworkers she says, "Remember the five fingers – you – did – it –to – me."

We know from the first letter of John the apostle and evangelist that God is love and the evidence of our love of God is our love of neighbor and the evidence of our love of neighbor is whether we sacrifice for them. In one of her letters she wrote, "And today God keeps on loving the world. He keeps on sending you and me to prove that He loves the world, that He still has compassion for the world. It is we who have to be His love, His compassion in the world of today. But to be able to love we must have faith, for faith in action

is love, and love in action is service." This I believe sums up the motivation behind the charity of our donors. People do not give to Catholic Social Services to show off to others or because they want a tax write off, they pray and donate material goods and cash to us because they love Jesus Christ who is present in the poor and needy. They are the love of Christ to others; they are the light of Christ to others.

As we continue this year of faith, please consider helping us spiritually by your prayers and penances, materially with items around your home and farm not needed including vehicles and a cash donation according to your means so we can

continue the mission given to Blessed Mother Teresa and to us, namely to love Jesus in the poor and needy. Please be assured of our continued prayers for you, your family and intentions. Blessed Mother Teresa, pray for us!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Christopher Kubat".

Fr. Christopher Kubat  
Executive Director

# As for me and my house...

**Dr. Aaron Stratman**  
**Director of Clinical Services**

In 2012, we saw tremendous growth and development for the Immaculate Heart of Mary counseling offices of CSS. We served 486 clients, provided over 5,300 hours of counseling, and gave away upwards of \$150,000 in grant services to those who are uninsured or underinsured. Around 30% of our referrals came from priests, while about 82% of the individuals we counseled identified themselves as Catholic. We served people from 84 different cities, 68 parishes in the diocese of Lincoln, 14 parishes outside the diocese of Lincoln, and at least 8 people who identified their Christian church. Many of these statistics have been made possible because our “house” grew from 9 satellite offices to 13 satellite offices, having added rural satellite offices in McCook, Holdrege, Beatrice, and York.

Now, imagine that those services were no longer available...Over half of our clients received grant assistance made possible by the generous donations of our many diocesan-wide benefactors and donors. Who will make up for the services that would have been provided by the Immaculate Heart of Mary Counseling Center?

As you know, our psychologists and counselors are specifically trained to integrate the Catholic faith with their top-notch counseling skills. So, what happens when there is a request for a professional service that is contrary to the moral teachings of the Catholic faith? How do the counselors handle that issue? If you entrust your family members, friends, fellow Christians to our services, how would you expect our counselors to respond to this difference? My answer is simple. I echo Joshua’s proclamation to his people when he exhorted them to choose between following the “gods beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites—“As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

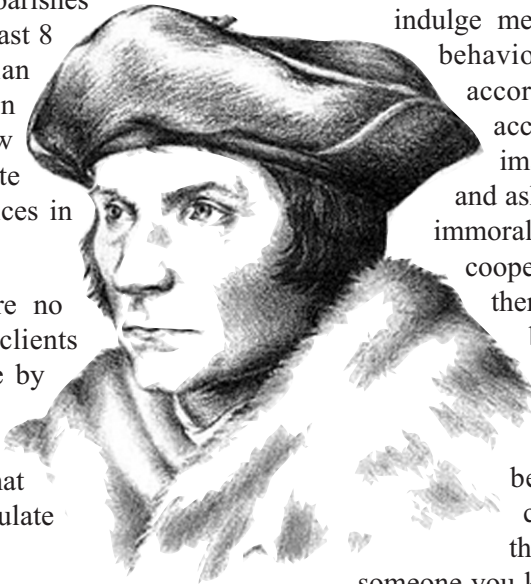
In today’s world, it seems like certain “liberties” rooted in vice are extolled greater than the freedom to practice your religion in the way Christ asked us when he said, “Go,

therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” With the political climate being what it is in this nation, it is important to understand exactly what the Church teaches on the formation of conscience and choosing to do good and avoiding evil. This natural law is written on the hearts of all persons and should always be reflected in man-made laws and regulations. You can find much, much more information in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1776-1802; 1950-1986), and I would encourage you to read these paragraphs (and all of the Catechism) and ask questions to your parish priests or people who teach adult faith formation in your parish. Form study groups and discuss ways to translate this information to our children. Call or email me and talk with me, if you have trouble finding anyone else.

Now, I would like to attempt a brief exercise, if you would indulge me for a moment more...Imagine a behavior that you believe is immoral according to the Catholic Church or according to your conscience...Now imagine that someone has come to you and asked you to help them engage in this immoral behavior. You would not be able to cooperate with them, right? So, you tell them, “I can’t help you engage in that behavior because it is immoral.” They ask you to refer them to someone who definitely can help them engage in that immoral behavior. Wouldn’t you be cooperating with them to commit this immoral act if you sent them to someone you knew would help them? The boards

who regulate counseling for the state of Nebraska are asking me and any person who professes an orthodox Christian view to knowingly violate their conscience by referring for services that are contrary to the moral teachings of the Catholic Church. If a counselor does not make a referral to a counselor who definitely provides the service facilitating this immoral behavior, then we could be charged with incompetence and our license would be suspended. If the counselors at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Counseling Center are unable to provide services in line with the faith, then your friends, family members, and fellow Christians will be forced to receive services from counselors a majority of whom do not value the role that your faith plays in your life or how the living out of your faith is integral to your getting to heaven. I guess they would refer you to as many counselors as they could until they find one who does...

*(Continued on back page)*



# Because of you, we could help

## Thank you for helping us serve the needy in 2012

Each day, we at Catholic Social Services face the challenge of meeting our mission of performing the Works of Mercy in response to the Call of God.



*"Charity in Bloom!" raised over \$20,000 for St. Gianna Women's Homes*

Though we faced many challenges in 2012, with God's help and the generosity of our donors and volunteers, we were able to meet these challenges. The following is a brief review of how you assisted us in performing the Works

of Mercy across southern Nebraska last year:

- ◆ The St. Francis Food Pantry in Lincoln served 9,381 pantries (206,382 lbs. of food) valued at \$262,688.
- ◆ The St. Andrew Mobile Food Pantry program in Lincoln served 18,184 pantries, up from 9,798 pantries the

previous year. The value of the pantries distributed was \$509, 152, an increase of approximately \$235,000 from the previous year. In this program, commodities are purchased from the Lincoln Food Bank and delivered to David City, Ashland, Seward, Geneva, Tecumseh, Falls City, Hebron, Shelby, Crete, Wahoo, Fairbury and Pawnee City.

- ◆ The Hastings mobile food pantry served 765 families (2,884 individuals) in Imperial, Sutton, Harvard, Clay Center, Minden and Hastings.
- ◆ Our clinical program provides services through permanent and satellite locations in Lincoln, Auburn, David City, Falls City, Hastings, Nebraska City, Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, the Newman Center on the UNL campus, Plattsmouth, Wahoo, Holdrege, McCook, Beatrice and York. Last year, we provided 5,329 hours of service to 486 individuals. Services were provided in 68 parishes across the diocese of Lincoln.



The expansion and remodeling of our St. Francis Gift & Thrift in Auburn last year has allowed us to expand services in the so

- ◆Our Refugee Services program resettled 151 individuals (58 families) last year.
- ◆The Sack Lunch program in Hastings provided 46,374 sack lunches.
- ◆St. Gianna Women's Homes provided 17,367 nights of housing to 40 families (up from 23 families the previous year) and 90 individuals. Also, 14 families graduated to permanent housing in 2012.
- ◆In all, the Lincoln and Hastings locations served a total of 1,287 families and 3,498 individuals through our 2012 Christmas programs.
- ◆The Backpack Program in Lincoln provides a weekend food pantry to students at five Lincoln Catholic schools. Last year, this program provided 4,320 individuals with \$17,280 worth of food, a 10% increase over the previous year.
- ◆Our Lincoln Social Services program distributed \$18,370 worth of diapers to 1,837 individuals.
- ◆Our Hastings Social Services program distributed furniture and vouchers for clothing, bedding, shoes, personal items,

etc., valued at \$17,494.

- ◆Our 16th annual CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Auction was held in honor of John Grosserode. This event, which was again held at Hillcrest Country Club in Lincoln, had 284 golfers and 300 auction and cookout attendees and raised over \$80,000 for our programs.



*The Lincoln Social Services program distributed over \$7,000 worth of fans last summer*

Thank you to all of our donors, sponsors, volunteers and all who assisted us in serving the needy across southern Nebraska last year. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we strive to serve the needy across southern Nebraska in 2013. CSS Is US!



# At the end of the day, we give thanks

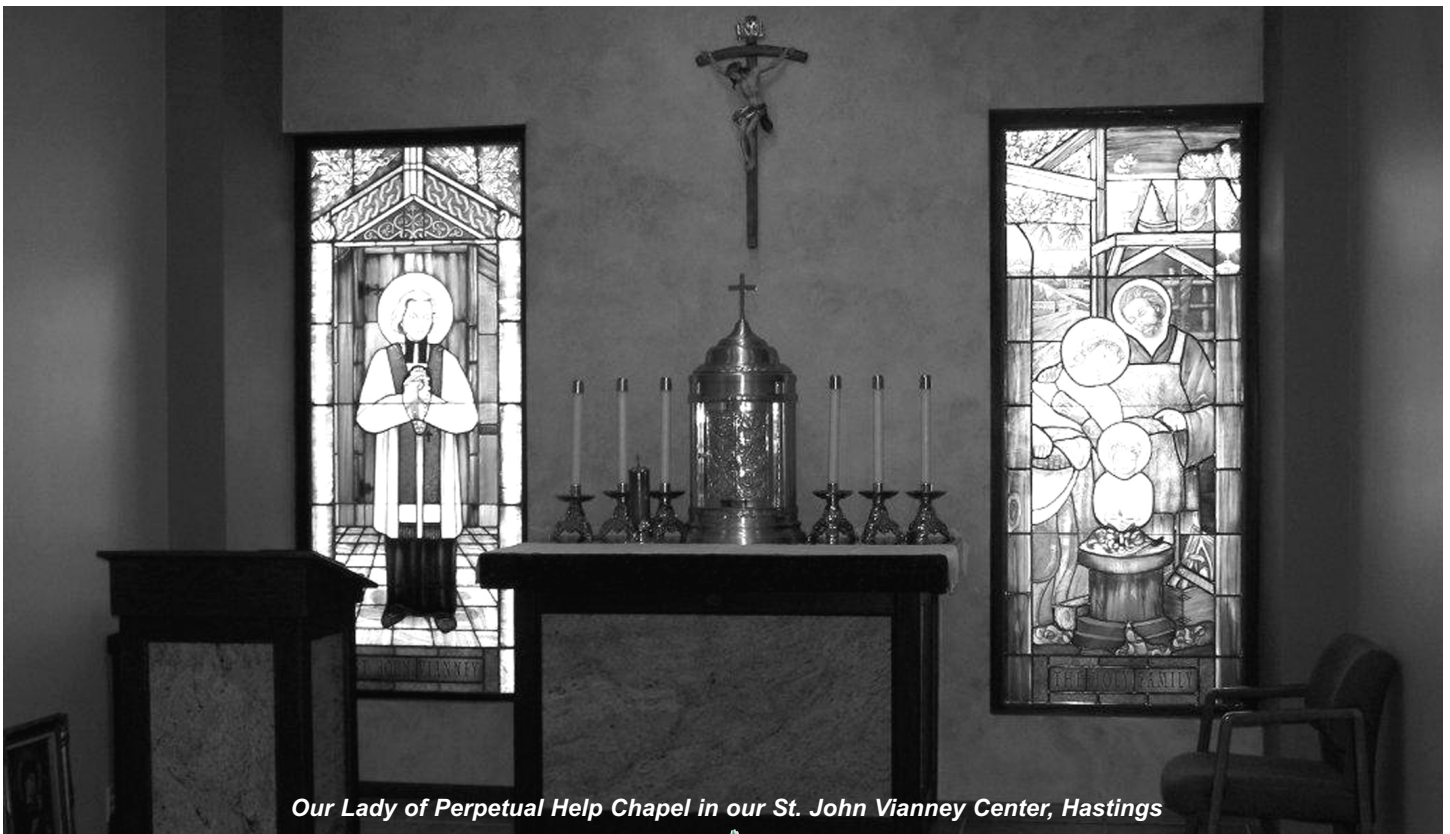
Tom Schik

Director of Social Services, Western Sector of the Diocese

At the start of each workday we gather in the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel in Hastings to ask our Blessed Mother to intercede for us as we seek the Lord's guidance in all that we will try to accomplish that day. We will face many challenges during the day as we seek to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless and assist families with clothing, furniture and other basic needs. Every day families come to us with a need or crisis that needs to be solved.

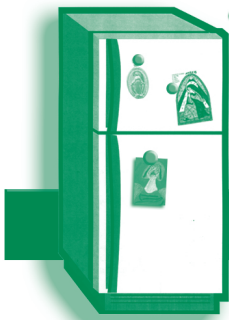
Our case workers who meet with families have the challenge of helping the family sort through their situation. It is their role to help the family problem solve by asking questions and gathering details to help understand and solve the immediate crisis. Resources of food, assistance with rent or utilities, are identified from various resources in the community to help resolve the immediate crisis. This is the short term plan developed jointly with the family. Caseworkers also seize the opportunity when meeting with families to develop a long term plan. This is a teaching moment that helps the family put a plan in motion that will avoid a future crisis by developing an emergency fund. It will be hard work for the family to build up an emergency fund. They will have to make sacrifices giving up luxuries they are used to having; such as cable TV, cell phones, eating out or smoking. With an emergency fund in place most future crisis can easily be solved.

At the end of the day we give thanks to God our Heavenly Father for the many blessings of the day. We are grateful for the clients He has sent us to care for. We thank Him for the many resources that have come to us through our benefactors in the form of clothing, food, furniture and money. These gifts along with the help of many volunteers translate into the resources our staff use to assist the more than 5,000 people who come to us for help in Western Nebraska every year. May God Bless the staff, volunteers and many benefactors of CSS for their acts of charity.



*Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel in our St. John Vianney Center, Hastings*





# The Refrigerator Reference Series

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

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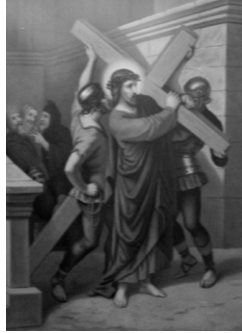
Lent/Easter 2013



1

### *Jesus is Condemned to Death*

O Jesus, help me to appreciate Your sanctifying grace more and more.



2

### *Jesus Bears His Cross*

O Jesus, You chose to die for me. Help me to love You always with all my heart.



3

### *Jesus Falls the First Time*

O Jesus, make me strong to conquer my wicked passions, and to rise quickly from sin.



4

### *Jesus Meets His Mother*

O Jesus, grant me a tender love for Your Mother, who offered You for love of me.



5

### *Jesus is Helped by Simon*

O Jesus, like Simon lead me ever closer to You through my daily crosses and trials.



6

### *Jesus and Veronica*

O Jesus, imprint Your image on my heart that I may be faithful to You all my life.



14

### *Jesus is Laid in the Tomb*

O Jesus, strengthen my will to live for You on earth and bring me to eternal bliss in Heaven.

## Family Way of the Cross

Lent offers the golden opportunity for families to reflect upon the Passion of Christ by taking part in the Way of the Cross. A family Way of the Cross could be said every Friday evening, or Sunday afternoon. Another suggestion is to say one station each evening if that better suits the children's attention span and family activities. It can be a simple quiet prayerful interlude or an opportunity for conversation, sharing each other's thoughts and meditations about the station. Before each station you say: "We adore You, O Christ, and we praise you, because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world." After each station you say an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be...



7

### *Jesus Falls a Second Time*

O Jesus, I repent for having offended You. Grant me forgiveness for all my sins.



13

### *Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross*

O Jesus, through the intercession of Your Holy Mother, let me be pleasing to You.



12

### *Jesus Dies on the Cross*

O Jesus, I thank you for making me a child of God. Help me to forgive others.



11

### *Jesus is Nailed to the Cross*

O Jesus, strengthen my faith and increase my love for You. Help me to accept my crosses.



10

### *Jesus is Stripped of His Garments*

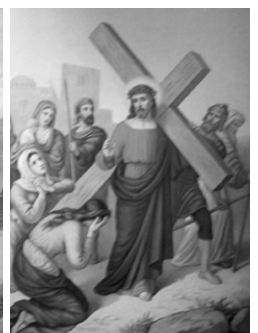
O Jesus, let me sacrifice all my attachments rather than imperil the divine life of my soul.



9

### *Jesus Falls a Third Time*

O Jesus, let me never yield to despair. Let me come to You in hardship and spiritual distress.



8

### *Jesus Speaks to the Women*

O Jesus, grant me tears of compassion for Your sufferings and of sorrow for my sins.



## Catholic Social Services

of Southern Nebraska

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