

## Preventing “vicious” gangrene

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Diocese of Lincoln, there are multiple opportunities for both! Also, the New Evangelization has provided us with ample opportunities to earnestly learn more about our faith. These opportunities could be sought or organized at your parish. If you have a question that you would like answered, look at reputable websites for the answer (EWTN, Catholic Answers, etc.) and then offer to have a discussion group at the parish hall. Finally, loving your neighbor genuinely requires not only good works but good attitudes. Giving of ourselves through our love of fellow man represents one of the reasons that the Gospel spread so rapidly and that the Church remains today from its humble beginnings.

For its part, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Counseling Center of Catholic Social Services will be joining the Family Life Office in an initiative to fight the insidious

scourge of pornography in our diocese. Many people struggle with avoiding pornography, and our counselors can help the individual, the individual's spouse, and the individual's family to recover from this diabolical and vicious problem. Pornography cannot be proposed by society as a legitimate way to replace the fundamental components of healthy relationships. CSS and the Family Life Office will be sponsoring a talk by one of the foremost Catholic leaders in the field of the pornography epidemic. Dr. Peter Kleponis will be presenting two talks on Friday, June 27, from 6:30 to 9:00 in Dawson Hall at the John XXIII Diocesan Center. Please consider coming to this event and RSVP to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Counseling Center by calling 402-489-1834 or by visiting its Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/immaculateheartof-marycc>) and clicking that you will attend the event.

Again, thank you for supporting CSS and the Immaculate Heart of Mary Counseling Center.



(S.A.G.)



Catholic Social Services  
2241 O Street  
Lincoln, NE 68510



# Patron

The Quarterly Newsletter of Catholic Social Services Of Southern Nebraska

## PRAYER TO SAINT BARBARA

*O Glorious St. Barbara, you inspire me by your example of courage and chastity. Help me to have your gift of faith, and obtain for me, through your prayers, the grace to live a holy life, so that one day I may join you in the Kingdom of Heaven. St. Barbara, pray for us. Amen.*



## Harvard Summer Food Program provides needed sack lunches

Keeping kids fed is a real challenge for low income families during the summer months. Some communities have summer food programs available at one of their schools but often for working families transportation to the noon meal is a challenge. Agencies in Hastings are collaborating to help relieve some of the stress families experience this time of year. Our focus is specifically on families with hungry kids.

At Catholic Social Services, we always gear up during the summer months to provide additional sack lunches because the number of kids coming to our office increases significantly. This spring we began working with the public and Catholic middle schools to identify families in need of food based on their school lunch programs. The schools will invite families to sign up for a summer food box through CSS. We anticipate serving an additional 150 families from the Hastings area with this project.

We plan to make the food boxes kid friendly with peanut butter and jelly, canned fruits, some sweet items like cakes and doughnuts, (don't worry, it's summer time and the kids

will burn off the added sugar) raisins, cereal, spaghetti sauce and noodles etc. The Kearney Food Bank is helping us develop a good balance of fruits and vegetables for the food boxes. With the support of you, our benefactors, we will purchase the needed food items for each box from the Food Bank.

For the past three years the United Way of South Central Nebraska has provided us funding to operate the Harvard Summer Food Program. Every weekend during the summer kids who attend the Harvard Summer Lunch Program receive a backpack of food to take home for the weekend. With feedback from parents and the kids each year we get better at choosing foods that are healthy and that kids

enjoy. The program allows us to supply certificates for milk, eggs and bread from the local grocery store to supplement the backpacks. The school sends out an average of 35 packs per week which serves about 140 individuals. Thank you for supporting the work of CSS and helping us feed hungry kids.

*-Tom Schik  
Director of Social Services  
Western Sector of the Diocese*



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Summer 2014

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# Thank you, St. Joseph!

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



As many of you know, Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska is in the business of collecting material donations, including furniture and appliances (as well as other items that make a house a home). Often, when helping a homeless individual or family move into a house or apartment, in addition to paying their first month's rent and security deposit, we furnish it as well. We do this also for many of the ladies who graduate from St. Gianna Women's Homes for most of them have nothing and are starting over – from scratch. All this is dependent, of course, on what our faithful benefactors donate to us.

As a general rule, material items donated are either given away via a voucher system either by Catholic Social Services or for clients who access St. Vincent de Paul, or sold in one of our four thrift stores across the diocese- St. Francis in Auburn, St. Louise in Lincoln, St. Joseph in Hastings, and St. Isidore in Imperial. The profits are then used to help individuals and families who need help with emergency services, or grants for counseling if they are unable to pay due to being un-insured or under-insured.

Because some items are collected and trucked from Lincoln to Auburn, Hastings and Imperial, sometimes by yours truly, a central warehouse was desperately needed. I am happy to announce that after searching for almost 5 years we have found and purchased a centralized warehouse in Lincoln to not only continue this mission but to expand it. It is an 8,000 sq. ft. building sitting on an acre and a half of land. Up until the present time, we have been operating out of two small buildings and multiple semi-trailers which has been a challenge to say the least. We are grateful to Almighty God for by His grace this has been realized. We are also grateful for the powerful intercession of our patron saints especially the Blessed Virgin Mary and her most chaste spouse St. Joseph for their intercession and for several anonymous donors for their generosity for without them, we would not have closed on this latest

addition to the CSS. During this process I kept reminding myself that St. Joseph was in charge and providentially we closed on this property on May 1, the feast day of St. Joseph the worker. It was also on that day the building and property was blessed.



We are hoping that after some minor repairs our new warehouse dedicated to St. Joseph will be fully operational this fall. Please keep the success of the renovation of this property in your prayers. Please also prayerfully consider helping us also by donating any items around your home or farm not needed and a cash donation according to your means so we can continue to assist the many needy individuals and families that come to us on a daily basis in crisis. Please be assured of our prayers for you, your family and

intentions. St. Joseph, pray for us!!

Fr. Christopher Kubat  
Executive Director

# Preventing "vicious" gangrene

**Dr. Aaron Stratman**

**Director of Clinical Services**

I was able to watch one of my favorite westerns the other night--Lonesome Dove. One of the main characters contracts gangrene in his legs toward the end of the movie. Gangrene occurs when a considerable mass of body tissue dies. It got me thinking about how we are now a part of Christ's Body (the Church) and how we need to prevent "vicious" gangrene from getting into the Body and how to get rid of the vicious gangrene we already have allowed to enter.

I propose that the most effective way for us to prevent the body of Christ from getting this disease is to make sure we safeguard ourselves from the practice of vice (hence "vicious gangrene"). What are vices? Vices are the bad habits that are opposed to virtues. The examples of the vices associated with hope are presumption (assuming that you automatically get what you hope for) and despair (assuming that you will never get what you hope for). Whenever it comes to extremes of thoughts, feelings, or behaviors, a virtue is necessary for keeping us right in the middle, known as the virtuous mean. So, to prevent vicious gangrene, we need to make sure to avoid the extremely negative or the extremely positive beliefs that we are tempted to believe about others and/or ourselves.

Some may argue that there is nothing wrong with having positive beliefs about ourselves because it builds self esteem. I would agree, except that the thoughts should not come from within ourselves, from our parents, from our teachers, or from our coaches. Instead, the positive thoughts about ourselves should be

derived from an infinitely perfect source who created us and who knows us the best. Could there be a more positive belief than being created in the image and likeness of God and being meant to spend eternity with Him as an adopted son or daughter whom He loves? Clearly, your Creator and mine destined us for greatness that would make an angel jealous. But, how we manifest that truth about our being, or essence, determines whether it is virtue (humility) our vice (entitlement, arrogance, etc.). To know yourself the way God knows you can bring you great joy, as long as we avoid distractions like vices.

In order to prevent vicious gangrene, we need to consider what the sources of vices are. While we are ultimately responsible for our commission of vice/bad habits, we can



filter certain temptations from our lives. Other people can be a source of the temptations to vice, which represents the insidious nature of vicious gangrene. Some believe, "If that person, whom I see at church, is doing/saying/believing this or that, then it must be o.k. for me as well." Thus, society develops a type of gravity that pulls people to think the same way as everyone else. And just like gravity holds us firmly to the earth, these cultural belief systems tend to be grounded in materialism or other philosophies that are more concerned with popularity than seeking truth. All of this means that we must guard the Body of Christ against false teaching, false philosophy, false advertising, false promises of happiness. As a Catholic society, we must get the "antibiotics" to stop the spread of this vicious gangrene.

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In order to combat the gangrene already present in Christ's Body and prevent it from coming back, each of us should seek grace frequently, learn about the faith earnestly, and love our neighbors genuinely. Seeking grace frequently can occur through the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation. Thankfully, in the

*(Continued on back page)*

# The family is the foundation

Curt Krueger

Director of Social Services, Eastern Sector of the Diocese

**"N**ot only would I say that the family is important for the evangelization of the new world. The family is important, and it is necessary for the survival of humanity. Without the family, the cultural survival of the human race would be at risk. The family, whether we like it or not, is the foundation."

-Pope Francis radio interview July 27th, 2013

Every day we see the effects of the deterioration of family life in our offices at Catholic Social Services. The social services offices of Lincoln and Auburn served over 1,300 families and 3,000 individuals in the month of April alone. The majority of families received food from our pantries in Lincoln and Auburn or our mobile pantries, but others received cash assistance, housing, employment placement and case management services. So many families in southern Nebraska are simply surviving day to day that there is no time for traditional family life. Even families who are financially secure must make an effort to spend time together as a family or risk drowning in a

sea of children's activities or volunteer commitments. I know I have to put aside my own personal competitiveness and participate in family game night (I can't draw a stick figure to save my life in *Pictionary* and I have lost 433 games in a row of *Scene It!*).

We must make time for family no matter how difficult or personally humiliating – see my *Scene It!* record above! It is the fundamental way in which we transmit the most vital cultural values to the next generation; faith, love, prayer, self-sacrifice, etc. For families surviving day to day however, it is difficult to find time to spend together. Many families in this situation are not whole, and many are so concentrated on the next meal, or the next utility payment, that time set aside for your child may be forgotten. Please pray with me that we may not only alleviate some of the symptoms of poverty but that we may also be used by Almighty God to help build a culture where family life is treasured and protected.



## "Friarworks!" set to return July 3rd & 4th

If you're like most folks, you probably feel a bit queasy spending money on fireworks, just to see your money go up in smoke... literally! Well if you're in the Lincoln area, buy your fireworks this year from "Friarworks!" so you can feel good knowing that you're helping us serve the needy while celebrating the 4th of July! All net proceeds from fireworks sold at "Friarworks!" goes to support the

programs of Catholic Social Services all across southern Nebraska. Located in the Catholic Social Services' parking lot at 23rd and O Street in Lincoln. "Friarworks!" will be open July 3rd from 8 AM-11 PM and July 4th from 8 AM until 10 PM. We will once again offer one of the areas best selection of fireworks, all for a good cause! You'll find a special money-saving offer on the back of this newsletter. Thank you for your support!



# CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Auction to honor Harry Knight

On Friday, August 8th, Hillcrest Country Club in Lincoln will host the 18th annual Catholic Social Services Memorial Golf Classic & Auction. A major fundraiser for the programs of Catholic Social Services, this event has become one of the largest charity golf events in the area. This year's tournament will be held in memory of Harry Knight. Last year, over 280 golfers from across the diocese participated in the tournament and more than 300 individuals attended the cookout and auction, raising approximately \$80,000.

“Burgers, ‘Brats & Biddin’!” is the cookout and auction that is held in conjunction with the CSS Memorial Golf Classic.

The event begins at 6:00 PM the day of the golf tournament and is open to all golfers and a guest; the general public is invited to attend the auction and bid on items.

There are numerous ways to help support this important fundraiser for Catholic Social Services:

◆**Corporate Teams:** The \$520 entry fee allows for a foursome, carts, and lunch. The fee also allows each golfer and a guest to attend the cookout and auction.

◆**Parish Teams:** The \$390 entry fee allows a foursome-

but must include at least one priest as there is no charge for priests to play. The fee also allows each golfer and a guest to attend the cookout and auction.

**The afternoon flight is currently sold out.** As this newsletter goes to press, there are still openings for either Corporate or Parish teams in the morning flight, which begins at 7:00 am. Whether playing in the morning or afternoon flight, all players and a guest are invited to the cookout and auction for no additional charge.

◆**Hole Sponsor:** The \$200 donation allows your name, company name or parish organization to appear at a tee-box during the tournament.

◆**Priest Sponsor:** The \$75 donation underwrites the cost for a priest to play in the tournament.

◆**Memorial Gift:** A memorial gift may be made to Catholic Social Services in honor of a loved one.

◆**Auction Gift:** You may donate an item or service to be offered on the silent or live auc-

tion. A day at your cabin, antiques or cash are just some ways that you can donate.

All sponsors will be recognized in the tournament program and in an ad in the *Southern Nebraska Register*. Registration deadline is August 1st. For more information call John McDermott at (402) 430-5626 or (800) 981-8242. The registration form is also available on our website at [www.cssisus.org](http://www.cssisus.org).



## 18th Annual CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Auction- Friday, August 8, 2014

Morning Flight

7:00 AM Start

Team name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Afternoon Flight

1:00 PM Start

**SOLD OUT!**

Hole Sponsor- \$200

Business/Organization

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Priest Sponsor- \$75

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Memorial Gift** I am unable to participate in the tournament. Please accept my Gift in memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\$25 \_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$75 \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_Other:\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Auction Item**

I'm interested in donating an item for the Silent/Live Auction.

Contact name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Item \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration deadline is August 1st. Return registration form in enclosed remit envelope.**



# Learning to become self-sufficient in their new community

Drew Miller

## Refugee Case Manager

On May 30th, Catholic Social Services' refugee department hosted a cultural orientation for recently resettled refugees from Burma. The refugee department resettles around 150 refugees per year from places all across the globe including Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. One of the most vital aspects of refugee resettlement is a thorough cultural orientation pertaining to life in the United States. This is especially true for the refugees arriving from Burma. Decades of civil and ethnic conflicts have led to the displacement of over one million individuals, leaving many living in some of the most primitive refugee camps in the world. Of the nearly 20 minority groups that have been affected by these internal conflicts within Burma, the Karen (pronounced "Kah-REN") people are the largest ethnic group. It is estimated that there are 8,000 or more Karen Burmese living in Lincoln and Omaha alone, marking Nebraska as one of the highest population centers in the entire United States.



In an effort to further orient the Karen refugees to their drastically new way of life in the United States, those that were resettled by both CSS and Lutheran Family Services in the past six months were invited to this cultural orientation hosted by CSS. The program included a presentation from a dental hygienist, whose dental office donated a dental care package for every refugee attending the event. In addition, Engine House 1 of the Lincoln Fire Department provided home safety tips and a tour of their fire engine. The event ended with a visit from the Chief of the Lincoln Police Department, Chief James Peschong, who gave a presentation on public safety and the role of the police in the United States. Through proper advocacy and orientation such as this, the refugees of Lincoln are able to take significant steps towards self-sufficiency as they become integrated into their new community.



# Win a Pair of Nebraska Football 2014 Season Tickets!



It's the dream of every Husker football fan- having a pair of your own season tickets! Here's how that dream could come true: In conjunction with the CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Auction, we're selling raffle tickets for two 2014 Nebraska football season tickets! **Raffle tickets are 1 for \$10.00 or 3 for \$20.00.** Just print this form, fill out the information below and send it to us in the enclosed remit envelope with your check. Due to postal regulations, raffle ticket stubs cannot be returned by mail for purchases over the Internet, through the mail or by phone. See the form below for more details.

Tickets can also be purchased at our CSS offices and Gift & Thrift Stores in Lincoln, Hastings and Auburn. The winner will be drawn at the CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Auction at Hillcrest Country Club on Friday, **August 8, 2014.** You need not be a golfer or a participant in our Golf Classic & Auction to win! In fact, you need not be present to win, but it would be a lot more fun if you were! Visit our website at [www.cssisus.org](http://www.cssisus.org) for a complete set of raffle rules. Good luck!

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## Nebraska football season ticket raffle ticket order form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

# Of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ **(1 ticket for \$10 or 3 tickets for \$20)**

Please make checks payable to Catholic Social Services. Mail orders must be **received by Thursday, August 7, 2014** in order to be included in the drawing. Due to postal regulations, raffle ticket stubs cannot be returned by mail for purchases over the Internet, through the mail or by phone. However, a receipt of your purchase with receipt number will be sent to you via US Mail. When an order is placed, we will complete the ticket by filling in the name, address, and phone number, and we will drop the ticket in the barrel at our office. At the drawing, the winner will be notified based on the name and information on the ticket. See our website at [www.cssisus.org](http://www.cssisus.org) for complete set of rules.

