



# DIOCESE OF LINCOLN

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 13, 2023

*Thursday in the Octave of Easter*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Blessings and peace to you during this Easter season!

Christ constantly reminded us he came not to be served, but to serve. As I reflect on this message, I am reminded of the many good men and women throughout the Catholic Diocese of Lincoln who follow his example every day in their commitment to living out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy in our communities—those who serve the poor, advocate for the littlest and the least, teach young people in our Catholic schools, extend a hand to those in difficult circumstances, and invite those who are lost or seeking guidance to encounter Jesus.

I wish to thank every one of you engaged in such work. You are truly the hands and feet, the face and voice of Christ. You bring the gifts of faith, hope and love to all corners of the Lincoln community and across Southern Nebraska. Thanks, also, to the many generous individuals, companies and groups who support this work with your prayers and financial gifts. I am inspired and edified by the many ways the people of God in our communities collaborate and give selflessly for the sake of others, in true imitation of the Lord Jesus.

Recently, I released a statement regarding the participation of Catholic organizations in this year's *Give to Lincoln Day*, an annual event hosted each spring by the Lincoln Community Foundation to benefit a variety of non-profit organizations in Lincoln. In the past, several Catholic organizations that provide valuable services to our community and offer vital assistance to people of all walks of life have relied upon the funds raised during this event to support their important work.

This year, for the first time, the Lincoln Community Foundation is mandating that all participating non-profits agree to new policy requirements that do not align with the beliefs and values of our Catholic faith. Therefore, Catholic organizations in the Diocese of Lincoln will not be participating. I am asking all Catholics to continue to support these organizations with renewed fervor in spite this unexpected challenge. Please consider donating generously by giving directly to these Catholic organizations in our community.

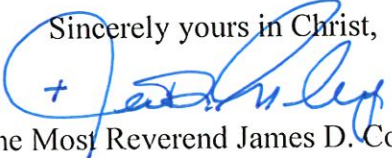
Several Catholic organizations that have participated in Give to Lincoln Day in the past—such as Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska, the St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center, Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House, and others—have shared or created online platforms that are prepared to receive donations at any time. Please visit their websites and social media pages for more information.

Our Lincoln Catholic school community has announced the first Lincoln Catholic Schools Day of Giving, to be held **May 16, 2023**. To find out more about this and other ways to support our Diocesan Catholic schools, visit [lincolncatholicschools.org](http://lincolncatholicschools.org).

As Catholics, we are called to engage the world with charity and truth, through Jesus Christ and his Church. Let us continue to collaborate to carry out his work in service to those in our community who are in need, as we have done in the Diocese of Lincoln for nearly 150 years, always remaining true to our mission.

With gratitude for your good work and generosity, with my prayers for you I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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The Most Reverend James D. Conley  
Bishop of Lincoln

