

***By Jan Schultz***

***The Imperial Republican***

It is hoped that by sometime early next year St. Isidore Gift and Thrift will be operating out of a new location.

Catholic Social Services (CSS), which operates the store in Imperial, has signed papers purchasing the building at 527 Broadway, formerly owned by Roger and Judy Teply.

Fr. Christopher Kubat of Lincoln, executive director of CSS, said the staff feels blessed and is thankful to God for what has transpired in Imperial.

The new site will double the area they have at their current location at 746 Broadway, which has been cramped for space for quite some time.

Fr. Kubat noted that the current St. Isidore location was always intended to be a temporary site as the store and staff got "its feet wet."

CSS has been looking for a permanent building for awhile, he noted, and looked at several other buildings in Imperial. Fr. Kubat said they took their time in finding a building that would fit St. Isidore's needs.

Some remodeling of the building is planned. They will also add a small office and chapel. New carpet is also likely, he said.

He said having a larger main level area will be great, and the move will locate the store more into the downtown retail business area.

Profits from St. Isidore Gift and Thrift have been and will continue to be used to help poor and needy individuals in the western part of the church's Lincoln Diocese, Fr. Kubat said.

All items sold in the store have been donated.

"We have been very happy with the operation in Imperial, and the generous donations from the people," he added.

He also credited store manager Bill Sullivan and the volunteers for its successful operation.

He said CSS is grateful to the parish and Fr. Bernard Lorenz, pastor of St. Patrick Catholic Church, which owns the current building, for temporary use of the former Friendship Hall.

Fr. Kubat and a staff member from the Hastings office were to be in Imperial Wednesday this week to again look over the building and make some decisions on remodeling and other details.

St. Isidore opened in March 2010. It is one of four thrift stores operated by Catholic Social Services in the diocese. Others are in Lincoln, Hastings and Auburn.