



St. Francis – St. Joseph Catholic Worker

Fall 2016

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The St. Francis - St. Joseph Catholic Worker House would like to thank you all for your continued support in helping us serve the homeless in Cincinnati. God bless you and thank you. Our mission would not be possible without the combined efforts, donations and prayers that we receive regularly. We are truly grateful for your tireless efforts.

The Catholic Worker House invites all Guests, Former Guests, Staff,
Volunteers, Supporters and their respective Families to our:

ANNUAL PICNIC



Winton Woods Redbird Roost Shelter
Saturday, October 8, 2016, from 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm
To celebrate hope, express gratitude and have some end of summer fun!

This is not a fundraiser, this is to get to know each other and have some fun.

Ben Morgan

Benjamin Franklin Morgan was born in Baton Rouge and raised in Cleveland. His grandfather was a steelworker and his father a police officer. Unfortunately, Ben was introduced to marijuana and drugs as a teenager and landed in Lucasville prison for a 17 year stay.

Released just this last April, Ben was put on a bus to Cleveland. He was suffering from undiagnosed dementia and lost his identification and most of his money. He somehow ended up at the Cincinnati bus terminal. Kind strangers directed Ben to the Drop Inn Center so he would have a place to sleep. Ben met helpful people at the Center including Tony, Laura and Miss V. Tony connected Ben to our House Manager, John Clark. According to Ben, “John actually listened to me” and detected Ben’s sincerity and hope. “We will help you” said John and Ben checked into the Catholic Worker House on May 18. John’s description of Ben most aptly characterizes his personality:



“Ben had many struggles during his stay here (including two trips to the hospital). He was dealing with a number of health concerns including the early stages of dementia. He found it very difficult to remember things, take medications as prescribed (he frequently mixed them up) and had a complex system of notes so that he could function. But it never dampened his spirits. He was an unusual case in that respect. Where most men would have been defeated by such adversity, he pushed onward. He continued to be a positive influence within our house, and performed tireless service when he wasn't well enough to get out to work. And when work did come, he never turned it down. It was hard not to pull for him.”

Ben, in turn, is very grateful to the House staff: “they accommodated my special needs.” Despite the challenges, Ben gives back through his music and art. He sings for local churches and volunteers with children at the Rec Center and library in Avondale where he resides. At 46, Ben yearns to help and give “I’m living my life, which is sometimes difficult. As a man of God, I can make positive changes. Time to start giving.” He evokes no bitterness or negativity despite his lengthy incarceration. The misdirected bus must have been steered by a higher power: The Catholic Worker House was founded by Father Schmieler specifically to assist men upon their release from prison. He ended up in the right city after all.

Ben is very interested in creating a mural or other artwork for a nursing home or rehabilitation facility. Perhaps, our readers will know of such an opportunity and contact the House. We warmly welcome Ben back to society and wish him well in his virtuous endeavors.

Manager's Message

“Don't forget that you are just a trash can. So if by any chance the divine gardener should lay his hands on you, and scrub and clean you, and fill you with magnificent flowers, neither the scent nor the colors should make you proud.”

I didn't know what to think of this when I first read it, but it stuck with me nonetheless. I recently celebrated six years of continuous sobriety, and the usual response from family and friends is “we are so proud of you”. At this point I usually feel obligated to say that it was not my doing, but God's. I'm not comfortable taking credit for His accomplishments, and my sobriety was not my doing, at least not without a lot of help.

My sponsor once told me that we as human beings were not designed to solve our own problems. So it comes as no surprise to me that the men that come through here that rely on God tend to do much better than the ones that don't. We, of course, do not mandate any beliefs. But we do encourage them.

I told an AA friend about my sobriety anniversary. He replied, “God is great”.

If they have the will, ***we are the way!*** Join the Marco Polo Circle to help us assist these wonderful men in becoming independent. Your monthly pledges will provide us with the means to carry on this important work. Simply go to our website at www.catholicworkercincinnati.org and click on the 'Donate' button. A recurring monthly contribution of any amount will make you a member!

Your ***monthly*** pledge IMPACTS LIVES daily!

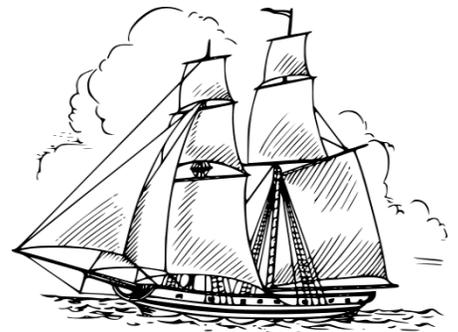
\$5 = feeds 300 people in our Soup Kitchen

\$10 = assists with providing job search tools

\$20 = provides 2 weeks of home cooked dinners for our guests

\$50 = gives 20 men work boots, a prerequisite for hiring at many jobs

\$100 = sponsors the cost of a guest's complete 60 day stay at the House



Note from the Board of Trustees

Father Mark's beloved house is in good hands. Thanks to our staff and all of you SFSJ continues its good work. Through August, 159 homeless men found hospitality at the House. Of the 130 that stayed, 46 were able to find work, save money and move on to independent housing. The others were given food, shelter, clothing and opportunity. No effort is wasted. SFSJCWH's success rate is above 35%. Great work everybody! Please note that our expenses continue to exceed our income, any and all help is greatly appreciated.

- Bob Bertsch, Chairman

The St. Francis – St. Joseph Catholic Worker House vigilantly protects its independence and freedom from politics or distracting influences in order to focus on the mission of helping the homeless and poor.

The House receives no government or diocesan funding and operates with simplicity and frugality.

If you wish to help us continue the good work, please send your tax deductible donation to:

St. Francis – St. Joseph
P.O. Box 14274
Cincinnati, OH 45250



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Catholic Worker House

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