Different Kinds of Homelessness

This week’s bulletin essay comes from the Bethesda Project’s Church Shelter Program. Andrew Huff, a case manager with Bethesda Project, will be speaking about homelessness in our city on November 3 at 1:00 PM in Barbelin Hall.

If you ask Eric, “there’s different kinds of homelessness. There’s homeless on the street—actually out on the curb, on that concrete—and homeless in the shelter, where you’re still homeless, just inside. You’ve got a roof over your head, but it’s not your own.” He’s familiar with both. Street homelessness is the most vicious, he says. “Someone can come right up to you and kill you, especially when you’re asleep, and you wouldn’t ever know it.”

Even if they don’t kill you, he says, there’s plenty of other stuff that can—and does—happen. In “People will run past you and throw rocks; rats and who knows what else will crawl across your legs. I had a friend set on fire by a group of kids. You’re safe when you have a door of your own that you can close and lock. On the streets, there’s no door. It’s just you on the bench, versus everyone else. Those aren’t good odds.”

Eric was living on the streets when he met Andrew, Bethesda Project’s Church Shelter Program Case Manager, during an Outreach meal at Old St. Joseph’s Church. Eric had been going to Old St. Joseph’s for several years. “They’re the best, hands down,” he says. “They treat you like family.” In 2018, Andrew began joining the Saturday lunch to engage some of the most vulnerable, shelter resistant men about homeless services. When someone decides he is ready for shelter, Andrew can admit him to the shelter on the spot, making the intake process as brief, un-bureaucratic, and person-centered as possible. It’s one of the ways Bethesda Project meets people where they are.

During lunch one Saturday in May, Eric approached Andrew and asked for a shelter bed. He had had enough. “Nobody wants to be in this situation,” he says, referring to living on the streets. “They might say they do, or say that they don’t care, but come on: this is a miserable life. At a certain point, you just decide it’s time to come inside.” Eric said he was ready, and Andrew said, “Alright, come on in. We’ve got a bed for you.” That was it: no paperwork, no interrogation, no nonsense. Eric spent his first night at St. Mary’s that night.

Overall, Eric says he has been pleasantly surprised by the experience: “When I think about my time at St. Mary’s I think about the laughter and the fun,

—continued inside
### Daily Mass Intentions & Presider

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#### In your prayers,
please remember our sick and homebound brothers and sisters and our ministry at Pennsylvania Hospital.

George Bernato, Deborah Brooks, Ann Crowther, Jane Crowther, Mary Kay Crowther, Simeon Crowther, Barbara Epting, Fr. Mike Hricko SJ, Allen May, Fr. Jerry McAndrews SJ, D. Minter, Donovan Schmidt, Sarah Smith, Mary Turner and Patricia Yusko.

### 2nd Collection November 3 for St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

St. Charles Borromeo seminary was established in 1832. Its fundamental mission is the formation of Catholic men for pastoral service in the Roman Catholic priesthood. As a center of enrichment for the larger Church community, Saint Charles provides ongoing academic and pastoral programs to priests, deacons, religious and laity through its School of Diaconal Studies and the Graduate School of Theology. Students work toward academic degrees, catechetical certificates and more. **On November 3,** parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will hold a second collection to support St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

### Why Register?

Registering as a parishioner at Old St. Joseph’s helps the parish serve you better. It provides ways for the parish staff to stay in touch with you and allows you to receive our periodic emails about parish life. Registering as a parishioner puts you in touch with the Young Adult Community, the Eldership Community, and parish ministries you can become involved in. It’s also the first step in initiating online giving. Not yet registered? You can find registration forms in the back of the church and on our website at oldstjoseph.org.
—Continued from front page

actually. The atmosphere there has personality. You know, when you’re going through hard times, you still find some kind of enjoyment in the people around you. We might watch TV, or make jokes, or just laugh at each other. It makes the best of the situation. It’s not the place you’re at, it’s the people you’re around. When you’re around good people, kind people, you can get through a depressing situation.”

He goes on to say: “St. Mary’s is the one shelter where I’ve actually felt safe—and I’ve been at this a long time—since the 90s, not that I’m proud of it. But what I mean is, I’ve seen a lot and know what I’m talking about. Usually in shelter, you’ve got a lot of people that don’t bathe, they’ve got serious mental illness, serious drug use, and it’s easy for fights to break out. There’s so much fighting in shelter. But St. Mary’s is much smaller and quieter.”

Eric also says staff manage the shelter differently than most shelters, and that that helps guests feel safe. For example, he recalls that over the summer two guests got into a verbal, then physical altercation at the shelter. According to Eric, “in a regular shelter, staff would just handle things on their own without involving anyone else. They’d punish the guys, and then that’s that.

But here, the staff did it differently. They asked those two guests to leave, then that night they gathered everyone together in a meeting and asked us, ‘How are you feeling about what happened?’ They asked us what we needed to feel safe, and what we thought was a fair response in the situation. They let us be a part of the process. That was cool.” What Eric is describing is one of the ways Bethesda Project’s Church Shelter Program uses restorative justice practices to respond to incidents of harm and wrongdoing. When an incident occurs, staff-members see their job as restoring a sense of safety rather than punishing wrongdoers. Staff-members then work with the shelter guests to figure out a resolution that restores their sense of safety while also administering a fair consequence. The process is transparent and inclusive, which means the outcomes are perceived as fair and legitimate by the shelter guests. People can feel safe knowing that justice is something that we achieve together, in the open, and not behind closed doors.

Recently, Eric had a positive move-out to a Safe Haven for chronically homeless men. As he reflects on the end of his time in shelter, he feels grateful for the people he’s met. “There’s a real community here at St. Mary’s,” he says. He’s right—and that’s the Bethesda way of doing shelter.

—Andrew Huff
Bethesda Project

Homelessness in Philadelphia

Last winter, Old St. Joseph’s Faith, Food and Friends began a partnership with the Bethesda Project, whose mission is to find and care for the abandoned poor and be family to those who have none. Andrew Huff, a Bethesda Project case manager, became a lunchtime regular at Old St. Joseph’s Faith, Food and Friends lunch outreach program. He formed relationships that helped move many guests indoors to either temporary or secure shelter. On Sunday, November 3 at 1:00 PM, in Barbelin Hall, Andrew will speak about what brings people to life on the street, why people can get stuck there and what are helpful ways to respond when we encounter someone on a city corner who is homeless. All are welcome to attend.

On the weekend of November 9-10, Old St. Joseph’s will once again collect much needed personal care items for our guests at Faith, Food and Friends. Check next week’s bulletin and the website for a list of what is most needed!
Announcements

Free Asylum Training for Lawyers
HIAS/Philadelphia (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society of Philadelphia) has been representing immigrants and resettling refugees since 1882. They are offering a free Continuing Legal Education training for attorneys seeking to assist with asylum cases. The CLE clinic will take place on **November 15, 11:30 AM–5:00 PM**. Pre-registration is required at hiaspa.org/event/asylumcle.

Holy Land Pilgrimage—June 16–26, 2020
Walk in the footsteps of Jesus with Fr. Brendan Lally, SJ of St. Joseph’s University. Go to the sources of your faith and discover the power of the Gospels come alive in the places touched by the presence of Jesus. The tour group is limited to 26, so register early at pilgrimages.com/frlally or by emailing Fr. Lally: blally@sju.edu. For more information, join Fr. Lally for a slide presentation on **Sunday, November 10 at 1:00 PM** in Barbelin Hall.

Waldron Mercy Open House
Waldron Mercy Academy invites you to learn about the school at an Open House on **Tuesday, November 5** beginning at 9:00 AM. We are a Catholic, coeducational, independent school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy. Please register for the Open House by emailing our Director of Admissions, Sr. Joellen McDonnell, at jmcdonnell@waldronmercy.org or by visiting www.waldronmercy.org.

#Home is Here
*Home is here* is the rallying cry for a pilgrimage in support of people who have received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) and Temporary Protective Status (TPS). Starting at the base of the Statue of Liberty in New York on October 26, marchers will make their way to the front of the US Supreme Court Building in Washington DC by November 12. On that day, the Supreme Court will begin proceedings to hear oral arguments challenging the DACA program. The campaign’s goal is to demonstrate widespread community support for DACA and TPS. There will be an overnight stop in Philadelphia **October 31–November 1**, with a community event and rally planned. Legal, medical, financial and moral support for the marchers is needed; for more information, visit homeisheremarch.org.

The Ignatian Solidarity Network has also published a number of online resources to express solidarity with DACA and TPS beneficiaries. Visit ignationsolidarity.net/prayers-of-hope for more information.

Court Accompaniment Training
The Archdiocese of Philadelphia and POWER Interfaith will hold a training for all those interested in accompanying immigrants to legal proceeding. on **Saturday, November 16, 10:00 AM–12:00PM** at St. Ignatius Church, 636 N. 43rd Street in West Philadelphia. The training is intended to deepen the understanding and skills of people new to accompaniment and those with some experience.

*If you attended the July 27 Accompaniment Training at the archdiocesan offices OR you are interested in connecting with others at Old St. Joseph’s who are planning to attend the November 16 training OR you are just interested in exploring a personal or parish response to migrants and refugees, please join us on Monday, November 4 7:00-8:00 PM for a meeting in Barbelin Hall.*
Announcements

Advent by Candlelight
Advent by Candlelight services take place in congregations across the country in early December as women of various Christian traditions prepare for the season with an evening of quiet reflection and companionship. Old St. Joseph’s once again invites women to Advent by Candlelight on Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 PM in Barbelin Hall. The evening’s prayer will be led by Jaclyn Newns, director of campus ministry at Chestnut Hill College.

How to Read the Bible
On three evenings in October and November, Fr. Walter Modrys SJ will talk about How to read and pray with the Bible, with a focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Why Matthew’s Gospel? Because beginning with the First Sunday in Advent, the Sunday readings will be drawn from Matthew’s Gospel. The schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, October 29, 7:00 PM, Barbelin Hall: How to Read a Gospel
Tuesday, November 12, 7:00 PM, Barbelin Hall: Overview of Matthew’s Gospel
Monday, November 18, 7:00 PM, Barbelin Hall: The Role of Scripture in St. Ignatius’s Spiritual Exercises.

Copies of the two books recommended in last week’s bulletin essay, Meeting St. Matthew Today and What are They Saying About Matthew, are available at Head House Books (619 S. 2nd Street) at a 15% discount.

Parish Cookout Dinner
The Young Adult Community will host the next parish cookout dinner Sunday, November 3 after the 6:30 PM Mass. All are welcome! If you are interested in helping out at this or a future cookout dinner, please osjyac@gmail.com.

All Saints Day
Friday, November 1 is All Saints Day, a holy day. Mass will be celebrated at Old St. Joseph’s at 12:05 PM and 7:00 PM (please note new time for evening Mass). Relaxed parking will be available for both Masses.

All Souls Observance
Because All Souls Day falls on a weekend this year, Old St. Joseph’s will observe the commemoration on Wednesday, November 6 at 7:00 PM (relaxed parking will be available). We will celebrate Solemn Evening Prayer from the Office of the Dead of the Liturgy of the Hours. Please come and join in prayer for our departed loved ones and all who mourn.

Book Group
The Old Saint Joseph’s Reading Group will meet on Tuesday, November 5 at 7:30 PM in the Loyola Room of the parish offices. November’s book is Alice McDermott’s Someone. New members are welcome.

YAC Fall Planning Meeting
The OSJ Young Adult Community (YAC) will meet at OSJ on Saturday, November 23, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM for its Semi-Annual Planning meeting. We actively seek new individuals to help coordinate, lead and grow the community. YAC thrives on shared leadership and wide participation to support its fundamental sense of community and future goals. All members and ideas are welcome and appreciated; please join us for as much of the day on November 23 as your schedule permits or email any thoughts for conversation to Megan at osjyac@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!
INFORMATION

Pastor
Fr. Walter Modrys SJ (pastor@oldstjoseph.org)

Parochial Vicar
Fr. Fran Gillespie SJ (fgillespie@oldstjoseph.org)

In Residence
Br. Robert Carson SJ
Fr. Edward Dougherty SJ (dougherty@oldstjoseph.org)
Fr. Ed O’Donnell SJ (eodonnell@oldstjoseph.org)

Pastoral Associate
BJ Brown (bjbrown@oldstjoseph.org)

Business Manager
Eric German (germane@oldstjoseph.org)

Director of Music
Mark Bani (music@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Offices
(ofice@oldstjoseph.org)

Religious Education (PREP) Coordinator
Christine Szczepanowski (prep@oldstjoseph.org)

Faith, Food & Friends Director
Deborah Hluchan (faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org)

Rectory Office Hours
Monday through Friday: 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Mass Times
Monday through Saturday: 12:05 PM
Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday: 5:30 PM
Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM and 6:30 PM
Holy Days: 12:05 and 7:00 PM

Medical Emergency
In a medical emergency when the need for a priest is urgent, please call the rectory.

Hearing Enhancements
Old St. Joseph’s is equipped with an audio hearing loop. Switch on the T-coil function of your device to use the loop. Booklets with the Sunday readings are available in the rear of the church.

Registration
Registration forms are available in the rectory office during normal office hours, on the bookcases in the back of the church and online at www.oldstjoseph.org. They can be returned to the parish office by mail or in person.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
A priest is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation Monday through Saturday from 11:30 AM–12:00 PM or by appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism
If you want to arrange a baptism, please call Fr. Dougherty at the parish office at least two months before the desired date to arrange catechesis and the baptism celebration.

Eucharist for the Homebound
To arrange to receive Communion at home, please contact the parish offices.

The Sacrament of Anointing
The Sacrament of Anointing (the sacrament of the sick) is offered during the 12:05 PM Mass on the first Saturday of each month. Homebound or hospitalized persons wanting to receive the Sacrament of Anointing should call the parish office.

Sacrament of Matrimony
If you want to be married at Old St. Joseph’s, please visit our website, oldstjoseph.org and read the material under the heading Weddings. When you are ready to set a date, please call the parish office at 215-923-1766 at least nine months before your desired wedding date.

Rite of Christian Initiation
If you are an adult wishing to be baptized, or to receive First Eucharist and Confirmation, or are a baptized non-Catholic seeking full communion with Catholic Church, please call the parish office or email rcia@oldstjoseph.org.

Mass of Christian Burial
To schedule a funeral or memorial Mass, ask your funeral director to call the parish office.

Parish Pastoral Council
(osjpc@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Finance Council
Paul Shay, chair

Historic Preservation Corporation Board
Fr. Walter Modrys SJ, president

Adult Education
Rita O’Brien and Jeanmarie Zippo
(adulted@oldstjoseph.org)

Eldership
Pat Nelson (eldership@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Life
Joe Casey (parishlife@oldstjoseph.org)

Ignatian Spirituality and Formation
Len Mancini (osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org)

Women, Faith and Fellowship
Rana McNamara (wff@oldstjoseph.org)

Young Adult Community
(osyjac@gmail.com)

Altar Servers
Maria Ramirez (altarserver@oldstjoseph.org)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
Bill Stewart (EM@oldstjoseph.org)

Hospital Ministry
Luanne Balestrucci (hospitalEM@oldstjoseph.org)

Homebound Ministry
Neal Hébert (homeEM@oldstjoseph.org)

Lectors
Lou Anne Bulik (lectors@oldstjoseph.org)

Ushers
Nikola Szgorich (ushers@oldstjoseph.org)

Children’s Liturgy of the Word
Peggy Connolly (clow@oldstjoseph.org)