

Pope Francis is coming to Philadelphia! Let's honor him with

MERCY and JUSTICE .org

"The globalization of hope,
a hope which springs up from peoples and takes
root among the poor, must replace the
globalization of exclusion and indifference!"

POPE FRANCIS

See the other side for concrete ways to join the globalization of hope!



HUNGER &
HOMELESSNESS
COMMITTEE



1515 Fairmount Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19130

Our Mission

The mission of the Project HOME community is to empower adults, children, and families to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty, to alleviate the underlying causes of poverty, and to enable all of us to attain our fullest potential as individuals and as members of the broader society.

This is a special edition of *News from HOME* dedicated to the upcoming Philadelphia visit of Pope Francis. We have partnered with the World Meeting of Families (WMOF) Hunger and Homelessness Committee to prepare for the papal visit by raising issues that are core to our mission – all of which you will read about in this issue. For more information on these efforts, go to www.mercyandjustice.org.

WMOF Hunger and Homelessness Committee:

- S. Mary Scullion, Project HOME (Chair)
- Anne Ayella, Nutritional Development Services, Archdiocese of Philadelphia (Co-chair)
- Jim Amato, Catholic Social Services, Archdiocese of Philadelphia
- Joanne Bean, Vice President, St. Joseph's College
- Brian R. Corbin, Social Policy, Catholic Charities USA
- Eva Gladstein, Mayor's Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity
- Steve Gold, Attorney
- Reverend Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr., Amachi Program, and SELF Inc.
- Maria Guzman, Volunteer
- Fr. Daniel Joyce SJ, Office of Mission Programs at St. Joseph's University
- Lori Lasher, Partner, Reed Smith
- Paul Messing, Kairys, Rudovsky, Epstein & Messing
- Pedro Ramos, Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP
- The Honorable Dana Redd, Mayor of Camden
- Emily Riley, Connelly Foundation
- Nan Roman, National Alliance to End Homelessness
- Tracy Specter, Volunteer
- Pat Suplee, Fundametrics Inc., Volunteer

Thanks to many members of the Project HOME community who went the extra mile to bring this campaign to fruition, especially Maureen Scully and Will O'Brien.

Administration

215-232-7272

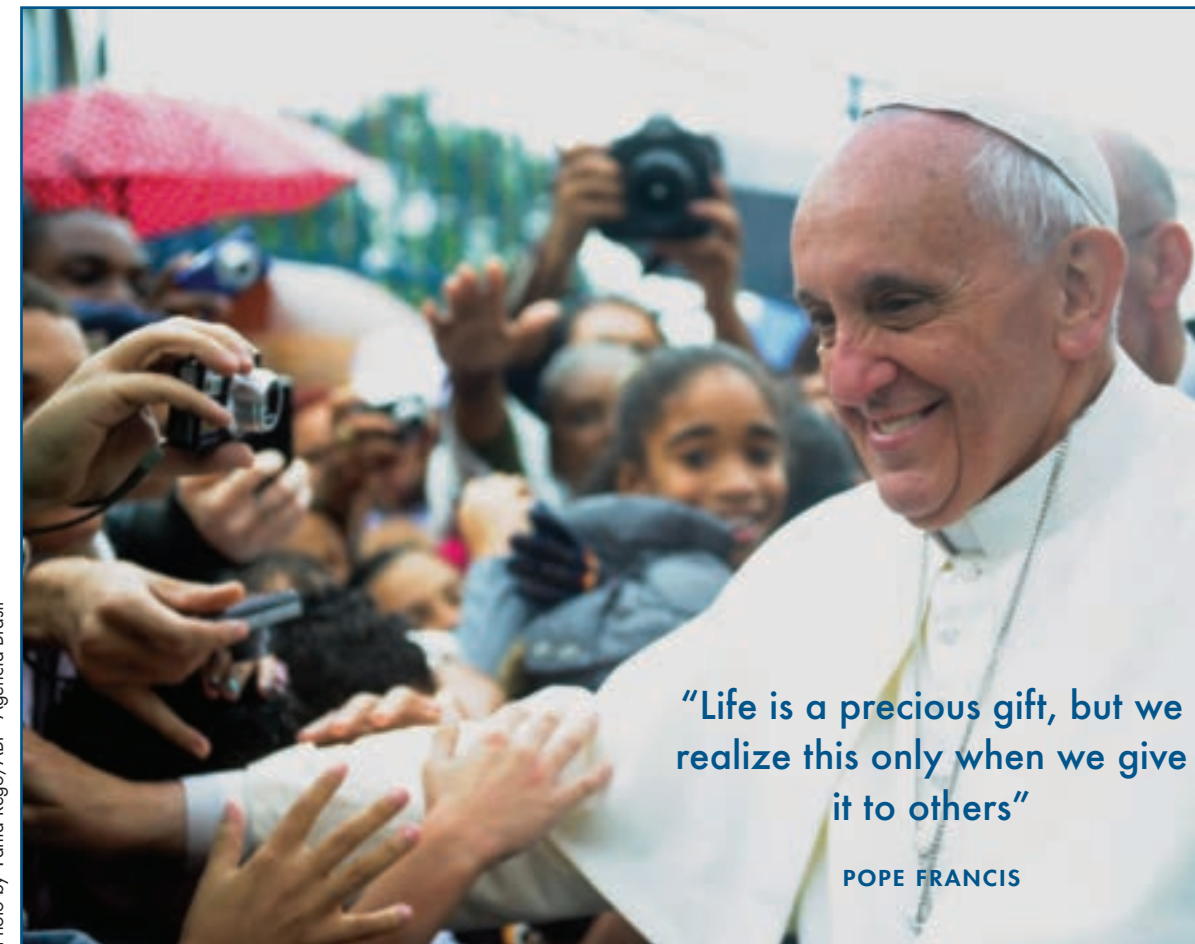
Homeless Outreach Hotline

215-232-1984

www.projecthome.org



NONE OF US ARE HOME UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HOME



"Life is a precious gift, but we realize this only when we give it to others"

POPE FRANCIS

Photo by Tania Régis/Abbr - Agência Brasil

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News FROM HOME

NONE OF US ARE HOME UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HOME

SPECIAL EDITION:
2015 Visit of Pope Francis

A Time for Transformation

In a few weeks, the eyes of the world will be on Philadelphia. Over a million visitors will crowd Center City, bringing about a massive economic infusion (and logistical and security headaches) in what is expected to be one of the most historic moments in our city's history.

The occasion is the much-anticipated visit of Pope Francis. Since taking on the mantle of head of the Roman Catholic Church in 2013, Pope Francis has been a truly remarkable and compelling figure. Millions are drawn to him—not just Catholics, but persons of all faiths and even those who don't consider themselves religious. People are taken by his infectious smile, his irrepressible spirit of hope, his surprising actions that defy protocol.

Perhaps more than anything else, Pope Francis has garnered worldwide attention because of his powerful and uncompromising message of compassion, mercy, and justice. He urges us to open our eyes to the truth of suffering in our world (and of the planet itself). He calls us out of our safe confines, our isolated worlds, and invites us to reach out to our sisters and brothers who experience poverty, oppression, and social marginalization. In doing so, he invites us to the truth of our own humanity. We all experience struggles. He calls us to reweave bonds of community by recognizing our common humanity, by upholding each other's dignity, and by working together for a truly just and loving society.

These lessons are at the very heart of Project HOME's history. From our earliest days, we understood that our own humanity was at stake in the struggles of those who are poor, homeless, and marginalized. We saw the profound connection between the need for individual compassion and for social policies to address poverty. We experienced that powerful truth that when we choose to enter into the realms of suffering, we find liberation—for ourselves as well as for others. We tapped into the energy of hope.

That kind of message is urgently needed. Our global economy is marked by growing inequities. Hundreds of millions are mired in deep and seemingly inescapable poverty, which fuel social instability and violence. In the United States, the American Dream seems to have crashed and burned for countless citizens, who find themselves struggling to survive. Philadelphia has a poverty

rate of 26 percent—the highest among the 10 largest cities nationwide. Across the river in Camden, the poverty rate is over 42 percent. Fifty-six percent of Camden's children are poor.

"The papal visit has to be more than a multi-million-dollar spectacle of pomp and civic pride."

The papal visit has to be more than a multi-million-dollar spectacle of pomp and civic pride. We would best welcome this remarkable global figure by responding concretely and energetically to his challenge to compassion, mercy, and justice.



Can the visit of Pope Francis this month spark a new commitment in ending homelessness and poverty in our region?

Last fall, the World Meeting of Families (WMOF), which is hosting the Pope, asked our Executive Director Sister Mary Scullion to co-chair a special Hunger and Homelessness Committee. In the pages of this special edition of *News from HOME*, you will read about the many aspects of the "Mercy and Justice Initiative." These include the Francis Fund; our outreach to Congress; and the public art project, *Mary Undoer of Knots*. Many of you have already been involved in these efforts, and we are grateful. We hope many more will join us!

As Philadelphia Archbishop Charles Chaput has said, "The Holy Father's visit will be a powerful sign of hope for transformation—for those suffering from hunger and homelessness, and ultimately for all of us." Our hope is that this is a truly transformative moment for our city and region; one that sparks a new social ethos of compassion and community. After the pope leaves, we believe there can be a deeper and wider commitment to do the hard and ongoing work of ending homelessness and poverty in our midst.

That's not up to Pope Francis—that's up to us. He has said, aptly, "The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need." We are the ones who must put those words into action, and build a city, a region, and a nation of true greatness—a greatness rooted in human dignity, compassion, and justice.

The Mercy and Justice Initiative

The World Meeting of Families Hunger and Homelessness Committee, with leadership from Project HOME, has three concrete ways to respond to the presence of Pope Francis in Philadelphia this fall.

The Francis Fund

Alfonso Brockington, formerly homeless on the streets, now has a “beautiful place to live.” Anne Marie Jones was once in the grips of sexual exploitation—but now is helping other women break free. These are examples of the thousands of persons whose lives will be strengthened through the Francis Fund. The fund, created and named in honor of the Pope, is a special short-term fund to address the urgent needs of those who are struggling with hunger, homelessness and poverty in the region. It will provide financial support to almost 50 organizations that represent many sectors of our community, including our various faith traditions—Protestant and Catholic, Jewish and Muslim—as well as non-religious, nonprofit organizations. They are serving a wide variety of persons meeting many diverse and immediate needs. Every dollar raised by the Francis Fund will go directly to designated projects to address these critical needs. (Project HOME will not be eligible to apply for this fund.) Read more about some of the groups supported by the Francis Fund at www.mercyandjustice.org.

Advocacy for Justice

The Hunger and Homelessness Committee, in partnership with dozens of national, state, and regional organizations, developed a statement entitled “A Time for Mercy and Justice: Pope Francis and the Pursuit of the Common Good in the United States,” which was sent to every member of Congress urging them, in light of Pope Francis’s visit to the United States, to promote a national public-policy agenda responding to the struggles of poor Americans. It lays out the elements of a truly just society—including creating more affordable housing; improving food and nutrition for children, elderly persons, and families; promoting full employment; ensuring that incomes are adequate for basic needs; and reforming the criminal-justice system to give people meaningful opportunities to reclaim their lives. We have initiated a web-based campaign (www.mercyandjustice.org/action), through which thousands of Americans around the country have contacted their legislators urging them to develop a bipartisan agenda of mercy and justice.

Mary Undoer of Knots

Inspired by Pope Francis’ favorite painting, *Mary, Undoer of Knots* is a public-art installation that draws attention to stories of those in need and provides a spiritual gathering site to foster hope, spirituality, and collective action. World-renowned artist Meg Saligman has developed the project. Over the past several months, she has held workshops at different programs for persons experiencing homelessness, poverty, addiction, and social marginalization. They have written their struggles on thin strips of cloth. We have also collected thousands of virtual “knots” through our website, in which people share their struggles. The result will be a public groto outside the Saints Peter and Paul Basilica in Center City. For more information, see www.mercyandjustice.org.



Photo by Jennifer Miller

A special team of Project HOME residents and outreach workers, here with “Pope Francis,” have been reaching out to persons who are homeless on the streets in Center City in advance of the papal visit. Their efforts are part of a plan to ensure that persons who are homeless are not unfairly displaced during the massive public events. Our goal is to make sure that those who are homeless are given the opportunity to be included or provided alternatives.

Kindred Spirits

Pope Francis and Project HOME share similar understandings of justice.

“A way has to be found to enable everyone to benefit from the fruits of the earth, and not simply to close the gap between the affluent and those who must be satisfied with the crumbs falling from the table, but above all to satisfy the demands of justice, fairness and respect for every human being.”
—Pope Francis, June 2013

“We all want a thriving community. But it is ultimately counterproductive to create a community that thrives for some but not for others. We cannot segregate those who are poor and struggling so the rest of us can enjoy the carefully parceled-out benefits of society. When we dehumanize others, we ultimately end up dehumanizing ourselves.”
—Project HOME newsletter, October 1998

“Concern with the idols of power, profit, and money, rather than with the value of the human person, has become a basic norm for functioning and a crucial criterion for organization. We have forgotten and are still forgetting that over and above business, logic and the parameters of the market is the human being; and that something is men and women in as much as they are human beings by virtue of their profound dignity: to offer them the possibility of living a dignified life and of actively participating in the common good.”
—Pope Francis, May 2013



Artist Meg Saligman (right) leads participants as they tie their knots onto a frame. Insert: Some of the over 20,000 knots that people have shared.



“Homelessness is a social crisis with many complex roots. But the reality of homelessness also symbolizes a society that deems some of its members disposable. Homelessness is a consequence of a social system based on hierarchies of powerful and powerless, worthy and unworthy...The men and women we have come to know teach us to envision a new society that embraces and celebrates all persons with their beauty and worth.”
—Project HOME newsletter, February 1994

Shop for Mercy and Justice!



Project HOME’s Social Enterprise program is producing and selling commemorative items for the World Meeting of Families and the papal visit. Your purchases of beautiful T-shirts and hand-crafted candles and soap celebrate the papal visit and provide employment to our residents. Go to www.projecthome.org/shop or call 215-232-7272, ext. 3075.

We are grateful to our many inspiring and committed partners who have supported the work of the World Meeting of Families Hunger and Homelessness Committee over the past several months.

Special thanks to those organizations and civic leaders who made initial leadership gifts to seed The Francis Fund, including our two Founding Partners, the Connelly Foundation and Wells Fargo Bank, as well as major donors: Anonymous; Aramark; Bank of America; Gene Epstein and Family; JBJ Soul Foundation; Lynne & Harold Honickman; Maguire Family; Leigh & John Middleton; Brian & Aileen Roberts; Tracey & Shanin Specter; and Wawa.

Thanks as well to organizations and leaders who have donated time, talent, and resources to make the whole Mercy and Justice Campaign possible, including Anonymous; Janet & John Haas; Leigh & John Middleton; as well as Sage Communications; Message Agency; Canada Dry; and Origlio Beverages.

And thanks to our many local, regional, and national advocacy partners and allies who played a pivotal role in forging the national Mercy and Justice advocacy campaign.

What You Can Do to Make Mercy and Justice a Reality

Donate to the Francis Fund. Take the Francis Fund challenge – find creative ways you and your community or congregation can raise funds. Send us your stories. Learn about the programs we are funding. Go to www.mercyandjustice.org/donate or text FRANCIS to 20222 to donate \$10.

Contact your Legislators. Urge them to support a mercy and justice legislative agenda. Challenge people in your network to do the same. Write letters to the editor about the need for justice for Americans struggling with poverty. Go to www.mercyandjustice.org/advocate.

Submit your Knot. Share your struggle by going online to www.mercyandjustice.org/knots. Undo someone else’s knots. Visit the public installation (which should be up as we go to press!) outside the Basilica on Logan Circle and join the undoing of knots onsite.

Spread the Word. Tell your friends and family about the Mercy and Justice Initiative. Get your colleagues, your congregation, and your community involved. Use social media to get others linked to our efforts.

Buy Pope Memorabilia. Help end homelessness as you purchase beautiful T-shirts, candles, and soap from our Social Enterprise program. Go to www.projecthome.org/store.

Stay in Touch. Sign up on our website (www.mercyandjustice.org/contact) to get on our mailing list to receive regular updates on events and activities.

Volunteer. We have various opportunities to support the Mercy and Justice Initiative, including volunteering at the public *Undoing the Knots* installation, participating in public Mercy and Justice Days of Action, and others. Contact Mary Anne Anderson at 215-232-7272, ext. 3092 or MaryAnneAnderson@projecthome.org.

Commit to the long haul! The Pope’s visit is an important opportunity to advance the cause of ending homelessness and poverty, but the work will continue long after he leaves. Stay involved with Project HOME to be part of an ongoing community of hope committed to making this a more just and compassionate society for all persons!

For general information and details about the papal visit to Philadelphia, go to the website for the World Meeting of Families 2015, www.worldmeeting2015.org.

MERCY and JUSTICE.org



Donate to the Francis Fund

www.mercyandjustice.org/donate

Donate to the Francis Fund, a special one-time fund, to address the needs of those who are struggling with poverty in the Philadelphia/Camden region. Support Pope Francis’ plea to help our most vulnerable sisters and brothers and break the cycles of hunger and homelessness.

Project HOME, in collaboration with the World Meeting of Families Hunger and Homelessness Committee, will grant all monies raised for the Francis Fund to other organizations. The Francis Fund will not fund any of the operations or direct program expenditures of Project HOME.

Text FRANCIS to 20222 to donate \$10 to Project HOME for the Francis Fund*

Advocate for Justice

www.mercyandjustice.org/advocate

Urge Congress, in light of Pope Francis’s visit, to develop a bipartisan legislative agenda to end poverty. Support the Act for Justice Campaign by sending a letter to your representatives through our website. Encourage your family and friends to support the campaign.



Mary, Undoer of Knots

www.mercyandjustice.org/knots

Engage with a new public art installation inspired by Pope Francis’s favorite painting, *Mary, Undoer of Knots*, and draw attention to stories of struggle. The installation will provide a gathering site to foster hope, spirituality, and collective action.



* A one-time donation of \$10.00 will be added to your mobile phone bill or deducted from your prepaid balance. All donations must be authorized by the account holder. All charges are billed by and payable to your mobile service provider. User must be age 18 or older or have parental permission to participate. By texting YES, the user agrees to the terms and conditions. Service is available on most carriers. Message & data rates may apply. Donations are collected for Project HOME for the benefit of the Francis Fund by the Mobile Giving Foundation and subject to the terms found at www.hmgf.org/t. You can unsubscribe at any time by texting STOP to short code “20222”; text HELP to “ENTER 20222” for help.