



MERCY AND JUSTICE

A report on the work of the World Meeting of Families Hunger and Homelessness Committee

January 27, 2016



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World Meeting of Families
Hunger and Homelessness Committee**

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Special Projects Coordinator
Project HOME**

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Words of Mercy and Justice

Statements from Pope Francis during his U.S. visit, including his address to Congress, his remarks at a homeless residence in Washington, D.C., his speech at Independence Mall, and his reflections at the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility.

“Let us treat others with the same passion and compassion with which we want to be treated. Let us seek for others the same possibilities which we seek for ourselves. Let us help others to grow, as we would like to be helped ourselves. In a word, if we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities.”



Pope Francis visits inmates at the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility in Philadelphia.



“All too often, those most in need of our help, everywhere, are unable to be heard. You are their voice, and many of you – men and women – have faithfully made their cry heard. In this witness, which frequently encounters powerful resistance, you remind American democracy of the ideals for which it was founded, and that society is weakened whenever and wherever injustice prevails.”



“A political society endures when it seeks, as a vocation, to satisfy common needs by stimulating the growth of all its members, especially those in situations of greater vulnerability or risk. Legislative activity is always based on care for the people. All political activity must serve and promote the good of the human person and be based on respect for his or her dignity.”



“I would encourage you to keep in mind all those people around us who are trapped in a cycle of poverty. They too need to be given hope. The fight against poverty and hunger must be fought constantly and on many fronts, especially in its causes.”



“All of us have something we need to be cleansed of, or purified from. May the knowledge of that fact inspire us to live in solidarity, to support one another and seek the best for others.”



“In the face of unjust and painful situations, faith brings us the light which scatters the darkness.”

The World Meeting of Families Hunger and Homelessness Committee

Background

In the fall of 2014, as the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the World Meeting of Families (WMOF) planning group were preparing for the WMOF and the Papal Visit in September 2015, Archbishop Charles Chaput reached out to Sister Mary Scullion of Project HOME, inviting her to form and chair a special committee that would address issues of homelessness and hunger. The idea for such a committee was a response to Pope Francis' strong public witness to issues of compassion and justice, and his constant call to the church and to the world to reach out to those who were poor and marginalized. The leadership of the WMOF understood that such an initiative was an appropriate part of planning for and welcoming the Holy Father to Philadelphia.

This report provides an account of the work of the WMOF Hunger and Homelessness Committee, under the leadership of Project HOME, beginning with the formation of the committee October 2014 through and beyond the Papal Visit of September 2015.

Formation of the Committee

Through September and October, under the leadership of Donna Farrell, Sister Mary Scullion, with assistance from staff at Project HOME, began forming the Hunger and Homelessness Committee. Anne Ayella, Director of Nutritional Development Services at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, was willing to function as co-chair and help in outreach to potential Committee members. The full Committee, which convened for its inaugural meeting on October 24, 2014, was comprised of various social service leaders (including from the Archdiocese), current and former city officials, nonprofit leaders, community volunteers, and persons with experience of poverty, hunger, and homelessness. While the bulk of the Committee was local, it included some national representatives, from key advocacy organizations and the judiciary who could play an important role in the Committee's eventual work. (For the full -committee list, see Appendix A.)

The formal mandate of the Committee, which was originally drafted by Donna Farrell and the WMOF was the following:

1. Working with organizers and city officials to ensure that persons who are homeless are treated with dignity and respect as the city prepares to welcome visitors from around the world;
2. Identifying opportunities to influence civic and corporate leaders, parishioners and citizens in our region to adopt the Holy Father's emphasis on care for our sisters and brothers struggling with poverty, hunger, and homelessness;
3. Identifying opportunities during the WMOF for highlighting existing charitable groups and/or efforts, and
4. Determining long term opportunities following the WMOF to benefit families in the region who face poverty, homelessness and hunger.

Early Public Outreach

The initial public announcement of the Hunger and Homelessness Committee was in an op-ed published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* on December 16, 2014. In that same op-ed, people were invited to attend Philadelphia Homeless Memorial Day on December 17, 2014. This is an annual event that commemorates homeless and formerly homeless persons who passed away during the year, and calls for a renewed commitment to work to end homelessness. The -Hunger and Homelessness Committee co-sponsored and

"In the depths of our humanity, all of us hear this cry, and it calls forth from us our truest selves. Pope Francis has given us a gift, by urging us to refocus on the truth of poverty and struggle in our world, both in its global and local forms. He is inviting us to tap the wellsprings of compassion and goodness within us, and he is urging us to re-envision our societies along the lines of justice and human dignity."

– Sister Mary Scullion, "A Message Philly Needs to Hear," Philadelphia Inquirer, December 16, 2014

promoted the 2014 event, and used it as an initial event to raise awareness of homelessness in our city in light of the Pope's imminent visit.

Oscar Romero Day of Commitment

Even as the overall plan for the –Hunger and Homelessness Committee was still in formation, the Committee organized a public event on March 24, 2015, the 35th anniversary of the assassination of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero. To commemorate this important church leader who was outspoken in his call for solidarity and justice, the Committee hosted the Oscar Romero Day of Commitment. Local business, civic, political, and religious leaders were invited to visit shelters, food pantries, and soup kitchens to engage with persons struggling with poverty as a way to get a better understanding of the human and systemic dimensions of the issue. In advance of the Day of Commitment, Archbishop Chaput wrote an op-ed in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* about Romero, stressing his love for those on the margins and our need to respond to those who are poor in our community. Twenty-one persons visited twelve different sites. Participants reported that the event was powerful and eye-opening, and the event garnered much media attention.

The Undoing the Knots Project – Early Phase

Early on in our envisioning of the mission of the Committee, we became aware of Pope Francis' special devotion to Our Lady Undoer of Knots. We contacted the highly renowned artist Meg Saligman, who had previously collaborated with Project HOME on art installations, to envision a public art project that could capture the spirit of the Undoing the Knots concept. Such an art project would be designed as a tribute to Pope Francis and a vehicle to raise public awareness of issues of hunger, homelessness, and the reality of human struggles that we all share.



Photo by Sabina Pierce

The Committee affirmed Meg's proposal for a community process that would result in a public art installation based on the Undoing the Knots theme. Project HOME commissioned this work thanks to the generosity of John and Janet Haas and Leigh and John Middleton. Starting in the spring, Meg and some of her art associates began visiting shelters, recovery houses, food pantries, and soup kitchens. They invited participants to write on a cloth strip their "knot" or struggle.

Eventually, these knot workshops happened in a wide variety of venues, including churches, synagogues, and mosques, as well as in public spaces. Meanwhile, the Mercy and Justice website provided a venue for people to share their knots online. Even in its early stage, the Undoing the Knots project generated much media attention and public interest. The collection

of knots would continue throughout the summer into the fall, eventually to be part of a public art installation.

The Mercy and Justice Campaign

By late spring, the Hunger and Homelessness Committee had formulated an overall integrated campaign to fulfill its mission. It was called the Mercy and Justice Campaign, and was comprised of three components:

- The Francis Fund
- The Campaign for Justice
- The Undoing the Knots Project



The full campaign was publicly announced at a press conference on June 22, 2015, which took place on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, which would be the primary public venue for events during the Papal Visit.

To enhance the work of the Mercy and Justice Campaign, Project HOME commissioned the services of Message Agency to create a website (www.mercyandjustice.org), which would have the capacity to receive donations for the Francis Fund and could link to web-based advocacy action. Project HOME also hired a new staff person, Brigid McCloskey, to oversee an overall social media campaign, using Facebook and Twitter to expand our support base and communicate our efforts. Several Project HOME staff members, from Accounting, Development, Information Technology, and other departments, helped in the strategizing and implementation of technical aspects of the Campaign.

“May the work of the Francis Fund, the Act for Justice Campaign, and Untying the Knots truly be mechanisms for positive change and awareness in our city, for increased connections between Philadelphians, for real policy initiatives and legislation that will make a difference in the lives of so many who are suffering and need help.”

– Rabbi Uri Allen, speaking at the June 22 press conference launching the Mercy and Justice Campaign

The Committee also formed specialized working groups to enhance the Mercy and Justice Campaign:

- A Communications Committee, made up of professional and experienced media and communications experts, would help develop and implement overall communications strategies up to and throughout the WMOF and Papal Visit.
- The Hunger and Homelessness Committee also called together an interfaith working group, comprised of clergy and laypeople who represented different religious traditions

in our region: Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, and Muslim. Over the months, members of this group supported the Campaign in many ways: speaking and leading blessings at public events; participating in various communication and outreach efforts, both to the general public and to their respective faith communities; raising money for the Francis Fund; and promoting advocacy efforts in our Campaign for Justice.

One particular project that drew on these subcommittees and was vital to the public outreach for the Mercy and Justice Campaign was the production of a short video, produced by halfGenius.¹ This three-minute video featured a wide variety of persons, local and national, from various faith traditions, sports and entertainment celebrities, and others urging people to support the Campaign.

Committee members and donors also arranged for large Mercy and Justice signs to be put on various billboards around town, as well as on Pepsi trucks, and on other venues.



Throughout the summer, volunteers with the Mercy and Justice campaign participated in various “Pope-Ups,” or Mercy and Justice Days of Action. Using the pop-up photo of Pope Francis and wearing bright yellow and blue Mercy and Justice T-shirts, the teams went to various public areas in Center City and West Philadelphia, inviting people to make a donation to the Francis Fund and send a letter to their congressional representatives.

Similar days were organized on various college campuses in the Greater Philadelphia area.

The Francis Fund

The Francis Fund was established as a time-limited special fund to address the urgent and concrete needs of persons struggling with poverty, hunger, and homelessness in the Philadelphia region and Camden in the spirit of Pope Francis’ own special compassion and mercy for our most vulnerable sisters and brothers. A special subcommittee was commissioned to develop and implement a process for the Francis Fund.

The Francis Fund was operated by Project HOME (in lieu of setting up a separate nonprofit entity), but Project HOME was not eligible to apply and would not receive any money raised for

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaMwgmakq7o>

the Francis Fund. Every dollar raised by the Francis Fund went directly to designated projects to address these critical needs. It was determined that most grants would range from \$5,000 to \$15,000, though for many groups larger grants would be given to empower them to make significant expansion in their programs and services.

The subcommittee reached out to over fifty regional ministries and organizations inviting them to apply for funding. There were groups that we knew were reputable, doing urgent work, and had a strong commitment not only to service but to empowerment and upholding the dignity of the persons they serve.



Photos of some of the Francis Fund recipient organizations: Masjidullah, Inc., Joseph's House of Camden, and SREHUP shelter at the Arch St. Methodist Church

In the end, 57 organizations and ministries received grants from the Francis Fund. (See Appendix H for more details on recipient organizations.) These groups represented many sectors of our community, including our various faith traditions – Protestant and Catholic, Jewish and Muslim – as well as many excellent nonreligious nonprofit organizations. They are serving a wide variety of persons, and meeting many diverse and immediate needs: persons struggling to feed their families, persons working to break the cycle of homelessness, persons in recovery from addiction and mental illness, women trying to break free from abuse

and trafficking, day laborers and low-income persons seeking real economic supports, youth, ex-offenders struggling for stability and opportunity. The exact nature of the grant was given with the strategic goal not just of additional funding for current services, but in most cases allowing the organization to expand its capacity for the long run, e.g. building a second residence for new program participants; expanding kitchen capacity to increase the number of meals provided; hiring staff who could provide previously unavailable services. The overall hope was that the Fund would create a wider net of services for sisters and brothers in need. (See below for a financial report on the Fund.)

The Campaign for Justice

The Hunger and Homelessness Committee recognized that an authentic response to the spirit of Pope Francis would also include a call to systemic change and social justice. Working with local and national advocacy partners (including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, NETWORK, and the National Alliance to End Homelessness) the Committee - drafted a comprehensive statement entitled "Pope Francis and the Pursuit of the Common Good in the United States," which urged national elected officials to respond to the Holy Father's visit and challenge by transcending partisan difference and developing legislation that addresses the needs of poor Americans and supports the common good. The statement outlined a vision of key elements of a just society and the common good, including affordable housing, access to food, opportunities for education and meaningful employment, access to quality healthcare, and a commitment to inclusion of groups on the margins, for example persons with disabilities, ex-offenders, and immigrants. This statement was sent, with a cover letter from Sister Mary Scullion and Archbishop Charles Chaput, to every member of Congress, and to the White House.

"May we seize the historic moment of Pope Francis' visit to reshape our nation into one in which all persons have true freedom and dignity, in which the preciousness of life is affirmed in our public policies in which families are healthy and stable. Let us build a society where adequate social supports, education, and economic opportunity empower every member of our community to flourish and contribute to a common good."

– from "Pope Francis and the Pursuit of the Common Good in the United States: A Statement from the World Meeting of Families Hunger and Homelessness Committee," Philadelphia, June 2015

We also sent the letter out to numerous regional and national organizations, urging them to sign on to the statement and help promote it to their legislators. In the end, the Mercy and Justice Statement had 131 organizational sponsors.

With support from Project HOME's Public Policy and Advocacy Department, we established a web-based message that could be directed to specific Congressional representatives. Working through our co-sponsoring organizations, our network of supporters, and social media, we sent this link out, urging people to contact their legislators with a parallel message of responding to the visit of Pope Francis by developing bipartisan legislation that would promote justice for those in poverty.

Throughout the summer and fall, we engaged in outreach to various elected officials from Pennsylvania and Delaware, asking them to support the Mercy and Justice agenda. We shared with them several public policy proposals that the Committee had developed, working with our national advocacy partners.

On September 22, 2015, members of the Mercy and Justice Campaign, including several formerly homeless persons, travelled to Washington DC to attend the White House ceremony welcoming Pope Francis to the United States. We also organized a reception in conjunction with Faith in Public Life, to mobilize support for the Mercy and Justice vision. Many elected officials were invited, and two Senators did attend and shared reflections: Senator Bob Casey of Pennsylvania, and Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia.



On October 26, 2015, U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) came to Philadelphia, where he gathered with Sister Mary Scullion of Project HOME and local youth service providers, calling on the federal government to increase funding to dedicate resources for transitional and permanent housing for homeless youth.

The Knotted Grotto

As thousands of “knots” were collected over the summer, Meg Saligman worked with her artistic team to create The Knotted Grotto, next to the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. The knots were tied on to the wooden dome-like structure, with additional knots on lines leading to the Basilica walls and dome. The Grotto featured a reflecting pool on the inside, and a full-sized replica of the



original

German painting “Our Lady Undoer of Knots” on the Basilica wall. In addition, there was special lighting to illuminate the Basilica Dome at night, with images of knots and hands.



A press conference and interfaith blessing service was held on September 3, 2015 to formally open the Knotted Grotto. A large crowd of visitors, supporters, and media were on hand to hear prayers and music and a reading of some “knots.”

When the Grotto was open, a volunteer station was set up inside the courtyard. Volunteers handed out knots for people to write on, as well as prayer cards featuring the image of Our Lady Undoer of Knots. Visitors were also able to make donations to the Francis Fund and write letters to

their Congressional representatives. They could also purchase WMOF shirts and other items from Project HOME's Social Enterprise program.

The Knotted Stole

In a parallel project inspired by Pope Francis' devotion to Our Lady Undoer of Knots, one member of the Hunger and Homelessness Committee created the Knotted Stole project. Lori Lasher, an experienced weaver, similarly went out to shelters, soup kitchens, prisons, and other sites. She too collected people's "knots" or struggles, by asking them to write them in a special journal, and to tie a small knot. These knots were woven into a special stole, which would incorporate the hair of fourteen different animals. The hope and intention was to present this stole of knots to Pope Francis, so he could lift all these struggles in prayer as he said Mass. The journals with persons' written struggles were beautifully bound and would also be presented to the Holy Father.

Support for People on the Streets

As state above, one component of the Hunger and Homelessness Committee's mandate was: *Working with organizers and city officials to ensure that persons who are homeless are treated with dignity and respect as the city prepares to welcome visitors from around the world;*

In order to fulfill this mandate, the Committee included two long-time civil rights lawyers, who had extensive experience in protecting the rights of persons experiencing homelessness. Working with a group of persons who were formerly homeless and with City officials, they held several meetings with the City's Office of Emergency Management, which was working with all appropriate agencies, including the Secret Service, on the security plan for the Papal Visit.

During the summer and early fall, special teams of Project HOME residents and outreach workers began engaging persons living in Center City, particularly on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, to hear their concerns and hopes and ideas for the Papal Visit.

Though communication was often slow and uneven, a plan was developed that entailed outreach workers being present as persons on the streets were cleared out for the set-up of the main security perimeter. All persons who were homeless on the streets were to be assured that they would be welcome to return to the Parkway when the security gates opened to the public. For those who did not want to return to the Parkway, additional beds at various sites

"I've been going out on the Parkway, talking with the people out there. Many of them want to know if the Pope is going to be able to actually help homeless people out there. I think he's going to do his best to help the community of people who are homeless and who are hungry."

– Samuel Vasquez, formerly homeless resident of Project HOME, part of special outreach teams to persons who were homeless on the Ben Franklin Parkway prior to the Papal visit.

were made available. Some tickets to the Papal Mass were distributed to some of the persons who live on the Parkway.

Another part of the effort was to try and assure access to meals that would normally be provided on the Parkway. After extensive planning, a small number of vouchers were made available to homeless persons. Some groups were able to access the Parkway to provide their normal services. Efforts to create an alternative site for meal service for other meal providers did not work out.

In the days leading up to and through the Papal Visit, through the extraordinary efforts of outreach teams from Project HOME, there were no negative incidents affecting persons who were homeless. Clearing the security areas went smoothly; many persons were able to find alternative places to stay, if desired; and a small number of persons were given the opportunity to participate in events that weekend.

In addition, the WMOF hired people who experienced homelessness to work in the Call Center and assist with preparations for this historic event.

The Community Table

On September 10, 2015, the Hunger and Homelessness Committee partnered with groups addressing hunger led by Anne Ayella and Tracey Specter and held another public education event, the "Community Table." Dozens of politicians, business leaders, religious leaders, and community members gathered for a common meal and presentations and personal testimonies on food insecurity in anticipation of Pope Francis' visit. The evening gave people of various backgrounds the opportunity to learn from one another and share ideas on how to address the problems faced by those who struggle with hardship.



Anne Ayella, WMOF Hunger and Homelessness Co-chair and director of the Archdiocesan Nutritional Development Services, speaks to participants at The = Community Table event on September 10, 2015.

The Week of the WMOF and Papal Visit

During the World Meeting of Families, as visitors started coming in large numbers to Philadelphia, the Knotted Grotto experienced a massive influx of visitors – hundreds every hour. The number of knots grew dramatically, to over 150,000. We continued to receive donations to the Francis Fund and collect letters to Congress, though most people engaged in the spiritual

act of tying their knots up and (usually) reading the knots of another person and offering a prayer.



The high point of the entire Campaign was undoubtedly the Holy Father's personal visit to the Grotto, which took place on Sunday afternoon, on his way to the Papal Mass. Archbishop Chaput brought Pope Francis to the Grotto where Sister Mary Scullion greeted him and briefly explained the vision of the Grotto. She also gave him the Knotted Stole. The Holy Father spent a moment in quiet prayer and blessed the Grotto and the thousands of prayers and struggles gathered there.

Winding Down the Mercy and Justice Campaign

In the weeks following the WMOF and the Papal Visit, Project HOME and the Hunger and Homelessness Committee continued to raise final donations for the Francis Fund and to direct visitors to the Knotted Grotto. Many people and groups from around the country continued to inquire about the Knotted Grotto for several weeks.

On October 7, 2015, the Committee held a press conference to formally close the Knotted Grotto and to announce the success of the Francis Fund. Interfaith leaders offered prayers, and Sister Mary Scullion stressed the importance of continuing the spirit of Mercy and Justice, even as the Campaign comes to an end. It was also publicly announced that the 150,000-plus "knots" would be used as insulation for Project HOME's development of its next permanent supportive housing facility. The Grotto structure itself would be relocated to the grounds of Project HOME's new Francis House of Peace residence, which was due to open in a few weeks.

On November 7, 2015, a closing "Celebration of Mercy and Justice" was held at the Independence Visitors Center. Over 150 persons were in attendance, and through a video and speeches, the overall campaign was celebrated. Checks were distributed to the Francis Fund recipient organizations who were in attendance (the remainder were mailed out). People participated in a special litany using quotes from Pope Francis during his U.S. visit, with the response "May we be persons of Mercy and Justice."

Summary of Results

The Francis Fund

The final figure for the Francis Fund is \$1,398,928 that was raised and \$1,408,572 that was given out. A Trustee of Project HOME made up the difference. All of these monies were put in a special account at Project HOME for the Francis Fund. The major sources for these funds included:

- Major leadership gifts including, the Connelly Foundation, Aramark, Jon Bon Jovi Soul Foundation, Leigh and John Middleton, Comcast, Janet and John Haas, Lynne and Harold Honickman, PECO/Exelon, Aileen and Brian Roberts, and Wells Fargo Bank.
- Online donations
- Checks from Project HOME and other donors
- Cash donations at the Knotted Grotto
- Cash donations at various public events (“Pope-Ups”)

Checks were written out to 57 organizations who applied for the Fund. Most of the recipient organizations received their check at the November 7, 2015 closing celebration. The rest were mailed out or personally delivered.

The Campaign for Justice

A total of 537 letters were delivered to national elected officials with copies of the Mercy and Justice Statement – one for every Congressional representative, every Senator, and to President Obama and Vice President Biden.

131 national, regional, and local organizations co-sponsored the Mercy and Justice Statement and shared it through their networks.

A total of 20,291 email messages were sent to 461 different national elected officials urging them to support legislation in the spirit of mercy and justice.

One month after the Papal Visit, on October 27, 2015, Senator Bob Casey of Pennsylvania came to Philadelphia and joined with Sister Mary Scullion and other nonprofit leaders to call for support for President Obama's request for \$2.48 billion in this year's budget to help homeless Americans.

The Knotted Grotto:

In the end, there were over 150,000 knots submitted for the Knotted Grotto. The Grotto continued to receive extensive media coverage in the days following the Papal Visit. Media reported on the plans for the knots themselves: They will be incorporated into insulation for Project HOME's next residential development, on 2415 North Broad Street. The Grotto Structure itself will be relocated to the grounds of Project HOME's new development, Francis House of Peace, which was named in honor of Pope Francis.

In addition:

The Mercy and Justice website and social media platforms collected a total of 2,129 emails from persons wanting to support and stay informed of the campaign. We will do a final outreach to these persons asking them if they want to stay involved in the effort to address homelessness and poverty through Project HOME.

We estimate that the overall Mercy and Justice Campaign – including the Francis Fund, the Justice Campaign, the Undoing the Knots project, the outreach to persons homeless on the streets, and general coverage – garnered significant media attention. We were able to track over 70 print stories, mostly local but some national and international. We also tracked at least 20 television stories (both local and from around the country).

Financial Report

In addition to the Francis Fund, the Committee raised \$300,000 for activities related to the Mercy and Justice Campaign.

The Knotted Grotto, lighting on the Basilica Dome at night, and Knotted Stole cost a little over \$200,000 with \$188,000 going to Saligman Studios for the Grotto and the Dome. There were also expenses for a part-time temporary staff persons to work with volunteers and logistics. This was all paid for by three existing donors of Project HOME through restricted gifts for this purpose.

Costs for the Campaign for Justice are estimated at \$30,000 which included:

- Mailing costs for the Mercy and Justice statement to Congress;
- Upgrading the SALSA software that allowed web-based letters to Congress;
- The September 22, 2015 reception with Faith in Public Life in Washington, DC;
- Various supplies and logistics (e.g. T-shirts, signs, banners, etc.).

The overall Campaign was supported through a grant from the Porticus Foundation, John and Janet Haas and Leigh and John Middleton which allowed Project HOME to hire and fund special staff to manage the entire Campaign.

We received many in-kind donations from various organizations in areas of communication support, advertising, and other areas. There were hundreds of volunteers who helped in every aspect of the Campaign.

Project HOME contributed numerous staff hours from various departments, including administration staff, accounting, development, information technology, and advocacy and public policy.

Final Reflections

From the earliest news of Pope Francis' announcement that he would visit Philadelphia, many people in our region recognized what a powerful opportunity it would provide to raise issues of poverty and human suffering. We recognized that his persistent global message of compassion and justice for those on the margins was critically needed in our city, where over a quarter of the population lives in poverty, where thousands are trapped in homelessness, addiction, or lost in the criminal justice system. So it was a wise and important decision by the World Meeting of Families to create an opportunity for raising issues of homelessness and hunger as an integral part of preparation for the Papal Visit.

A core goal of the Hunger and Homelessness Committee was not only to raise the issues of hunger and homelessness, but also to provide practical ways for people and communities to respond. We had some remarkable success in the specific initiatives we developed – the Francis Fund and the Justice Campaign. We were able to actually expand the capacity of many organizations to provide services and support for persons in our area struggling with poverty. We were able to send a strong message to our national leaders that complemented the message they heard from the Holy Father when he spoke to Congress.

The Undoing the Knots project, which culminated in the Knotted Grotto, was an astonishing success, far beyond what we had anticipated. It was clear that providing a public vehicle to share struggles tapped a deep chord in many people. Our ultimate goal was to invite people to connect their personal and familial struggles with the struggles of hurting people in our community; as we invited them to pray for the undoing of their “knots,” we invited them to help undo the knots of poverty and injustice through the other elements of the Mercy and Justice Campaign. The sheer magnitude of visitors to the Grotto overwhelmed our volunteers' capacity to fully share the vision with each visitor, but we feel that many people were able to see the connections. And we hope and pray that the Grotto not only enhanced the spiritual life of those who participated, but that it planted seeds of greater empathy and compassion.

It was also deeply encouraging to see many persons who had experienced homelessness and poverty take on leadership roles through this process. We had such persons participating on the Committee and on subcommittees. Many of them shared their stories and spoke of the urgency of the issues at Mercy and Justice events and other public venues. Many formerly homeless residents of Project HOME played a key role in the outreach to currently homeless persons on the streets in an effort to provide services, alternatives, and support during the WMOF and Papal Visit. Many others volunteered in a variety of capacities throughout the year: at public events such as the Pope-Ups and Days of Action; at the Knotted Grotto; and even through selling WMOF merchandise that had been created by homeless persons and former gang members. We believe the empowerment of these men and women can continue into the future in providing leadership in the work to end homelessness.

A remarkable part of the Mercy and Justice Campaign was the formation of an interfaith working group. Clergy and laity from the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths came together to support the campaign in a variety of ways. There were important connections formed in this process, including the recognition that our different communities are doing similar work and ministry for persons in need. The very act of coming together for a common cause was a sign of healing in our society, particularly in an age where religious violence is scarring our world. The group recognized the need for deepening these relations in ways that can enhance our common work of compassion and justice. We must explore how we can do this in the coming year.

There remains an important challenge: Where do we go from here? How do we tap into the energy of the Papal Visit and move forward in continuing a Mercy and Justice agenda? We recognize that literally millions of persons in our region were in some way touched and moved by the Holy Father's presence in our city. We know that the Pope's message included a strong challenge to us all to love, mercy, compassion, and concern for our sisters and brothers who struggle with poverty, addiction, and social marginalization. Therefore, there is a deep reservoir of persons, in congregations or not, who are primed to join the movement to seriously address poverty and homelessness in our community. How can we reach out to and mobilize this community? How can we continue to stress the centrality of mercy and justice in our faith lives and congregations? How can we create concrete venues for new people to get involved, through financial support, volunteering, program development, and advocacy? And how can we foster broader commitment in our region to lasting solutions to poverty and homelessness?

Appendices

A: Hunger and Homelessness Committee Members

B: H&H Committee Charter

C: December 15, 2014 Op-Ed

D: March 25, 2015 Op-Ed

E: June 7, 2015 Op-Ed

F: Letter to Congress

G: Mercy and Justice Statement

H: Francis Fund Recipients

I: Major Donors, Partners, and Supporters

Appendix A

Hunger and Homelessness Committee Members

S. Mary Scullion, Chair of Committee
Executive Director, Project HOME

Anne Ayella, Vice-Chair of Committee
Associate Director of Nutritional
Development Services, Archdiocese of
Philadelphia

Jim Amato
Deputy Secretary of Catholic Social Services,
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Joanne Bean
Chief Advancement Officer and Vice
President, St. Joseph's College

Mimi Box
Executive Director
Jon Bon Jovi Soul Foundation

Brian R. Corbin
Sr. Vice President, Social Policy, Catholic
Charities USA

Eva Gladstein
Executive Director, Mayor's Office of
Community Empowerment and Opportunity

Reverend Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr.
Former Mayor of Philadelphia
Director and Organizer of the Amachi
Program
President and CEO, Self. Inc.

Maria Guzman
Community volunteer

Fr. Daniel Joyce SJ
Office of Mission Programs at St. Joseph's
University

Lori Lasher
Partner, Reed Smith

Judge Gerald Austin McHugh
U.S. District Judge
Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Pedro Ramos
Former Managing Director, City of
Philadelphia
Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP

The Honorable Dana Redd
Mayor of Camden

Emily Riley
Executive Vice-President, Connelly
Foundation

Nan Roman
Executive Director, President and CEO,
National Alliance to End Homelessness

Tracey Specter
Community volunteer

Pat Suplee
Community volunteer

Legal Team:
Steve Gold

Paul Messing
Kairys, Rudovsky, Epstein & Messin

Appendix B

Hunger and Homelessness Committee Charter

Objective

The World Meeting of Families (WMOF) Hunger and Homelessness Committee (the Committee) is an advisory committee which will focus on:

1. Working with organizers and city officials to ensure that persons who are homeless are treated with dignity and respect as the city prepares to welcome visitors from around the world;
2. Identifying opportunities to influence civic and corporate leaders, parishioners and citizens in our region to adopt the Holy Father's emphasis on care for our sister and brothers struggling with poverty, hunger, and homelessness;
3. Identifying opportunities during the WMOF for highlighting existing charitable groups and/or efforts, and
4. Determining long term opportunities following the WMOF to benefit families in the region who face poverty, homelessness and hunger.

Membership

The Committee will be made up of civic leaders, social services professionals, social justice advocates, and persons who have experiences of hunger and homelessness. At least one representative from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and/or the World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia will sit on the Committee. The members will receive an appointment letter from the World Meeting of Families leadership and the term will conclude in December 2015.

Each delegate will be responsible for participating on conference calls and attending in-person meetings. If unavailable, the delegate is responsible for finding a suitable replacement to take his/her place.

Governance

The Committee will have a Chair and Vice-Chair appointed to serve one term that concludes in December 2015. Their responsibilities will be to:

Chair

- Facilitate in-person meetings and conference calls;
- Provide to the WMOF Executive Director a summary of the matters discussed and actions taken at each Committee meeting;
- Communicate progress on the Committees goals, and
- Determine whether subcommittees need to be formed in consultation with the WMOF Executive Director.

Vice-Chair

- Provide Chair with support as needed, and
- Facilitate meetings if Chair is unable to attend.

No member of the Committee shall be an agent of the World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia or any other body or organization solely by virtue of being a member of the Committee, and no member has the authority to act for or legally bind the World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia solely by virtue of being a member of the Committee.

Appendix C

December 15, 2014 Op-Ed

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Winner of 20 Pulitzer Prizes

A message Philly needs to hear

SISTER MARY SCULLION

PUBLISHED IN THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2014

Next September, Philadelphia will host Pope Francis, who will be visiting as part of the World Meeting of Families. Given the immense global impact Francis has had in his still young papacy, this is a historic opportunity for our city: More than two million visitors are expected, and for several days the eyes of the world will be upon us.

This dynamic new pope has seized the imagination of millions around the globe - Catholic and non-Catholic alike. This is in large part because he has spoken out so forcibly about those who are poor and suffering. "The times talk to us of so much poverty in the world, and this is a scandal," he has said. "In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children, that there are so many children without an education, so many poor persons. Poverty today is a cry."

In the depths of our humanity, all of us hear this cry, and it calls forth from us our truest selves. Pope Francis has given us a gift, by urging us to refocus on the truth of poverty and struggle in our world, both in its global and local forms. He is inviting us to tap the wellsprings of compassion and goodness within us, and he is urging us to reenvision our societies along the lines of justice and human dignity.

This is a message that Philadelphia needs to hear. Our city has a poverty rate of 26 percent - the highest among the 10 largest cities nationwide. Almost one of every three children in Philadelphia lives in poverty. Thousands experience homelessness. Food pantries and soup kitchens are strained to meet the growing needs of people facing food insecurity. As Pope Francis says, a scandal indeed.

This week we will pause and reflect on the sobering reality of those who experienced homelessness and passed away this year. On Thursday at 5 p.m., hundreds of people will gather at Dilworth Park for Homeless Memorial Day. This annual commemoration is held in conjunction with similar events in more than 150 cities around the country.

Along with prayer, song, and poetry, we will read the names of more than 130 persons. Many of them were homeless at the time of their death, some even dying on the streets or in abandoned homes. Many had succeeded in breaking the cycle of homelessness, demonstrating the power of hope and transformation.

Their lives and their deaths remind us of the ongoing crises of poverty and addiction; the lack of health care, affordable housing, and economic opportunity; and the many ways our society dehumanizes those on the margins. They also remind us that we have solutions, and that homelessness and poverty do not have to be intractable problems. In the midst of the holiday season, we will honor all of them during the service - most of all, by recommitting ourselves to working to end homelessness.

Over the next nine months, many people of faith and conscience in our region will be organizing events to raise awareness of the issues of hunger, homelessness, and poverty in anticipation of the pope's visit. We will create venues for the voices and stories of those who are economically struggling. We plan on reaching out to our schools and our faith communities to create deeper understanding of the issues and opportunities to respond.

We will be inviting all members of our community to envision how the pope's visit can spark new opportunities for services and programs to those in need and new resources for effective solutions of housing, education, health care, employment,

and income supports. Even for a few days, the pope's presence here can engender deeper impulses of charity and broader support for public policies that foster true social and economic justice.

Pope Francis has said, "The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty."

He will undoubtedly reiterate that message next fall here in Philadelphia - a message that echoes deep in our own historical origins, as a community founded to be a "city of brotherly love and sisterly affection." We hope our city, our region, and our nation will hear Pope Francis' message, and we will respond to the invitation to true greatness - a greatness rooted in human dignity, compassion, and justice.

Sister Mary Scullion is a Sister of Mercy and a co-founder and executive director of Project HOME in Philadelphia. maryscullion@projecthome.org

Appendix D

March 25, 2015 Op-Ed

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Winner of 20 Pulitzer Prizes

Salvadoran martyr was a voice of love, liberty

CHARLES J. CHAPUT

PUBLISHED IN THE *PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER*, SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2015

Thirty-five years ago Tuesday, Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador celebrated Mass in the small chapel of a cancer hospital. As he finished his homily and started back to the altar, a rifle was fired from the back of the chapel. The bullet struck him in the heart. He died within minutes.

Romero's murder shocked the millions of poor Salvadorans whose struggles he had embraced during a time of brutal oppression. The day before his death, he made a national broadcast calling on Salvadoran soldiers to refuse to be agents of the continuing violence.

"In the name of God," he said in words that may have sealed his fate, "in the name of our tormented people whose cries rise up to heaven, I beseech you, I beg you, I command you: Stop the repression!"

Last month, Pope Francis named Romero a martyr for the Catholic faith. He will be beatified on May 23 in San Salvador - the final step before being canonized as a saint of the Catholic Church. But Romero is not simply a beloved figure for the Salvadoran people or a holy figure for Catholics. As a voice for love and justice, he speaks to all of us.

When he became the country's senior bishop in 1977, Romero was expected to continue the traditional alliance of church leaders with the government and wealthy families who ran the country. But less than a month after his appointment, one of Romero's personal friends, the priest Rutilio Grande, was murdered for his work among the poor. Grande's death shook Romero deeply:

"When I looked at Rutilio lying there dead, I thought, 'If they have killed him for doing what he did, then I too have to walk the same path.' "

Romero embarked on that path, and he never turned back. He became a vigorous critic of the poverty, injustice, and violence in El Salvador. He spent much of his time in pastoral visits to poor communities, hearing their stories, embracing their suffering, and moving more eagerly into the gospel mystery of God's special love for the outcast.

Even as threats against him mounted, Romero spoke out assertively against human rights abuses by paramilitary groups and the government. He called on President Jimmy Carter to end U.S. military aid to the ruling junta. He especially denounced the harassment of thousands of priests, nuns, and lay workers of the church, who faced regime-backed threats and violence.

Part of Romero's power was his understanding that the church, by her nature, must be revolutionary in the truest sense: She seeks, and at her best actually lives, a revolution of Christian love. This revolution is a task of "integral human salvation" that promotes the progress "of whole persons - in their transcendent dimension and their historical dimension, in their spiritual

dimension and their bodily dimension. Whole persons must be saved, persons in their social relationships who won't consider some people more human than others but will view all as brothers and sisters and give preference to the weakest and neediest." We could easily transfer his words about the Salvadoran people to our own situation: "We either serve the life of [those who are suffering in our midst] or we are accomplices in their death. . . . We either believe in a God of life or we serve the idols of death."

As Philadelphia readies itself for the visit of the pope this year, the witness of Oscar Romero is worth remembering. Even in our local communities, we have brothers and sisters whose cries of poverty and abandonment rise up to heaven. Too many of our fellow citizens suffer from broken families, hunger, homelessness, and unemployment.

To commemorate Romero's sacrifice, the Hunger and Homelessness Committee of the World Meeting of Families 2015 has invited dozens of civic, religious, political, and business leaders to spend time meeting with the poor in our region on Monday. We will visit shelters, soup kitchens, food pantries, and health clinics, listening to stories and seeking to understand the personal and social dimensions of poverty. We hope we can in some small way begin to ease the wounds of society that affect us all.

Archbishop Romero knew the risks of his pastoral ministry. But he believed in the resurrection and the triumph of love over evil. "If God accepts the sacrifice of my life, then may my blood be the seed of liberty, and a sign of the hope that will soon become a reality," he said. "A bishop will die, but the church of God - the people - will never die."

Today, in our own lives, may we nurture the seeds of liberty and hope that he planted more than 30 years ago.

Charles J. Chaput is the archbishop of Philadelphia.

Appendix E

June 7, 2015 Op-Ed

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Winner of 20 Pulitzer Prizes

For pope's visit, art that blends knots and have-nots

[Orlando R. Barone](#)

POSTED: Sunday, June 7, 2015, 1:09 AM

Knots have been the bane of my existence. As a Boy Scout I mastered the overhand forget the clove hitch or the bow line.

Sure, I eventually learned to tie a tie and my shoes, but I have never tied a knot except under extreme duress. Imagine my dismay when I heard what Sister Mary Scullion has been up to as she prepares for Pope Francis' two day visit to Philadelphia in September. Sister Mary, our tireless laborer on behalf of Philadelphia's poor and homeless, is chairing the Hunger and Homelessness Committee of the papal visit.

Says Sister Mary: "The pope has great devotion to Mary, the 'Untier of Knots.' She will be the core of our effort." Mary, the who of what? This was a title I'd never heard of, and I've heard Mary called "Tower of Ivory," "House of Gold," and "Singular Vessel of Devotion." Untier of Knots goes back to St. Irenaeus of Lyons, who, in about A.D. 140, claimed that Mary undid the knot tied by Eve. (I guess Adam was as undependable as I am at knotting.)

The pope has a special affection for the Untier, whose painting he discovered as a priest studying in Germany. The Virgin Mary is seen serenely undoing a tangle of knots reminiscent of the tangles in our individual lives and in the world at large. If you were looking for an image to encapsule Pope Francis' papacy, untying a gaggle of knots might do the trick.

Philadelphia artist Meg Saligman was commissioned by the committee to come up with an idea centered on this image of the Virgin Mary but also giving a unique voice to the poor and marginalized. Saligman has garnered input from civic leaders and the poor themselves. She will construct a grotto featuring thousands of suspended knots representative of the struggling, the poor, the homeless. You and I will be able to affix a knot to the work, and on it we can write a word or two depicting a struggle, a knot in our own lives, one that needs an expert untier. We will also take the knots posted by others and pray for them. We untie one another's knots, you see.

This is monumental. You can buy at least 10 different implements that will remove a cork from a wine bottle, but no one has invented a tool that reliably unties a shoelace. Now, we can leave our knots at the grotto, and ask the lady who has untied humanity's toughest knot to help loosen them for us.

Exactly how the grotto will look depends on Saligman's creative artistry, but in my imagination I see a kind of wall where people step up and pin their knots. Our deepest worries and most intractable struggles are written upon them. "Illness/cure." "Friend/grief." "Eagles/Super Bowl." (Sister Mary is an Eagles fan.)

Amid the vast tangle of knots, I see a man's hand, beautifully manicured, encased in a cuff of the finest quality, moving tentatively to attach his knot. I glimpse the words he has written, *son/heroin*. The man looks down and notices a second, much smaller hand, its soiled fingers straining up, also holding a knot. "Food/home," it reads. The man reaches down and lifts the boy and together they affix their knots, side by side, before Mary the Untier. Equal now in anguish, desolation, and perhaps a bit of hope, each utters a prayer that the other's knot might be loosened, even untied.

That is the moment for which the grotto will be constructed. It is the moment to which this pontiff has beckoned our troubled, knotted world, the moment for which Pope Francis visits our city. It is the Moment of Brotherly Love. Brotherly love the best tool we have for untying the toughest knots.

Orlando R. Barone is a writer in Doylestown. For more information about the grotto, visit www.mercyandjustice.org.

Appendix F

Letter to Congress

This letter, signed by Archbishop Charles Chaput and Sister Mary Scullion was sent to every member of Congress and to the White House on June 22, 2015. Included with the letter was the statement "A Time for Mercy and Justice" (see following appendix) and a list of endorsing organizations.

June 22, 2015

Dear Member of Congress:

Pope Francis will make his first visit to the United States this September – including an address to Congress. The World Meeting of Families (WMOF) Hunger and Homelessness Committee is working to prepare for the Pope's presence in Philadelphia by focusing attention on the struggles of our fellow citizens who are poor and suffering. We believe it is urgent that we seize this moment and respond to Pope Francis' challenge that we hear the cry of poverty in our nation.

Included with this letter is "***A Time for Mercy and Justice: Pope Francis and the Pursuit of the Common Good in the United States.***" This was developed through months of consultations with organizations and advocates from around the country. We have sought to lay out a vision of a just and compassionate society, in the spirit of the Holy Father's challenge. Such a society would include the following goals:

- ***Create more affordable housing to prevent and end homelessness.***
- ***No one should be hungry: improve food and nutrition for children, elderly persons, and families, in solidarity with the international Caritas movement.***
- ***Promote full employment and ensure that incomes are adequate for people to meet their basic needs, including food and shelter.***
- ***Reform the criminal justice system to give people meaningful opportunities to reclaim their lives.***

We urge you, as a public servant, to join us in furthering the Pope's challenge to reflect upon how best to build a society truly rooted in mercy and justice. We hope you will act with leadership and courage to find new and creative bipartisan solutions that move us further toward the American promise of liberty and justice for all.

Sincerely,



Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput
O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia



S. Mary Scullion, RSM
Chair, WMOF Hunger and
Homelessness Committee

Enc.

Appendix G

Mercy and Justice Statement

This statement, prepared by the H&H Committee working with local and national advocacy partners, was sent to every member of Congress and to the White House.

A Time for Mercy and Justice

Pope Francis and the Pursuit of the Common Good in the United States

**A Statement from the World Meeting of Families
Hunger and Homelessness Committee**

Philadelphia, June 2015

"The times talk to us of so much poverty in the world, and this is a scandal. In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children, that there are so many children without an education, so many poor persons. Poverty today is a cry." -- Pope Francis

This September, Pope Francis will make his first visit to the United States. This is an historic moment that presents both profound challenges and opportunities for our nation.

This dynamic pope has seized the imagination of millions around the globe - Catholic and non-Catholic alike. This is in large part because he has spoken out so forcefully about those who are poor and suffering. In an era where the world economy seems inexorably structured to promote greater inequalities and dehumanization, the Pope urges us to hear the cry of our suffering sisters and brothers.

In the depths of our humanity, all of us hear this cry, and it calls forth from us our truest selves. Pope Francis has given us a gift, by urging us to refocus on the truth of poverty and struggle in our world, both in its global and local forms. He is inviting us to tap the wellsprings of compassion and goodness within us, and he is urging us to re-envision our societies along the lines of justice and human dignity.

With millions of Americans struggling for economic survival, we need to heed Pope Francis's call to hear the cry of poverty in our nation. We believe his visit can be a spark for a renewed commitment by Americans of faith and conscience to actively work together toward greater social and economic justice.

“The dignity of each human person and the pursuit of the common good are concerns which ought to shape all economic policies,” the Pope has written. These words echo the deepest aspirations of our own national heritage, rooted in a vision of liberty and justice for all persons. They also point to a way forward, out of the current political polarization and economic stagnation that leave many Americans bereft of hope and uncertain of their future.

May we seize the historic moment of Pope Francis’s visit to reshape our nation into one in which all persons have true freedom and dignity, in which the preciousness of life is affirmed in our public policies in which families are healthy and stable. Let us build a society where adequate social supports, education, and economic opportunity empower every member of our community to flourish and contribute to a common good.

A Vision of a Just and Compassionate Society

“Politics, though often denigrated, remains a lofty vocation and one of the highest forms of charity, inasmuch as it seeks the common good. ... I beg the Lord to grant us more politicians who are genuinely disturbed by the state of society, the people, the lives of the poor!” – Pope Francis

“A Place to Call Home”

Housing is a fundamental human need for individuals and families to have stability and to flourish.

A safe, decent, affordable place to live is a cornerstone of the American dream. A just and compassionate vision of housing would include:

- Policies and resources that empower households with modest incomes to obtain quality affordable housing and that promote home ownership for Americans of all income levels.
- Permanent Supportive housing for Americans with special needs and those working to break the cycle of homelessness, as well as specialized housing to meet specific needs of veterans, at-risk youth, and persons with disabilities.
- Foreclosure prevention, income supports, and crisis intervention to prevent homelessness.

“A Place at the Table”

In a land of plenty, we must ensure that all individuals and families have access to food. We must work to make sure that private organizations and ministries work in tandem with public policies so that food needs are met for all Americans.

“A Chance to Flourish”

Work is essential to human dignity as well as necessary to individuals’ and families’ flourishing.

Essential to the American promise is economic opportunity for all citizens. A just and compassionate society would maximize opportunities for work and employment with a living wage, or adequate income supports for those unable to work. Similarly, we must ensure that all children have access to quality education, which is a critical component to preventing homelessness and poverty.

“Health and Wholeness”

Healthcare is a fundamental human need and an essential component of a just society. All families and individuals need access to affordable, quality, and dignified healthcare – including services to cover behavioral health and disabilities supports and accessibility. We must especially work to ensure that our most vulnerable citizens, whose health issues are often aggravated by poverty and social marginalization, have the comprehensive and integrated healthcare services they need to empower them to break the cycle of poverty.

“Liberty and Justice for ALL”

We are a community of diverse people from all walks of life. In building a just society of liberty and opportunity for all people, we need to recognize segments of our community that often face discrimination and marginalization, both because of social attitudes and structural obstacles. These groups are often especially prone to experiencing poverty. These include persons with physical disabilities or mental health challenges; persons who have been through the criminal justice system and are seeking re-entry into society; and immigrants of varying legal status. We must assure that all services and policies maximize accessibility and inclusivity.

The Work Ahead: Forging a Bipartisan Public Policies Agenda

“Growth in justice requires more than economic growth, while presupposing such growth: it requires decisions, programs, mechanisms and processes specifically geared to a better distribution of income, the creation of sources of employment and an integral promotion of the poor which goes beyond a simple welfare mentality.” – Pope Francis

The work to create a truly just and compassionate society is ongoing. It requires the constant building of a community of hope of persons from all walks of life. It can only happen through an engaged and empowered collaboration of all sectors of society: the public sector, the private sector, the business community, the faith community, nonprofit and advocacy organizations, and others.

In our efforts to create a just society in our nation and respond to the needs of poor Americans, the federal government must play an active role. We urge our elected officials to work in a bipartisan spirit for the passage of substantial and effective public policies that can positively impact the lives of Americans struggling with poverty, hunger, and homelessness. We believe we have a unique opportunity for leadership, commitment, and coordinated effort by elected officials from both parties to advance and pass a bipartisan Mercy and Justice Agenda. We call on Congress and the President to act with leadership and courage to promote the common good and move us further toward the American promise of liberty and justice for all.

Appendix H

Francis Fund Recipients

These are the organizations who received financial grants through the Francis Fund.

Francis Fund

CAMDEN

Cathedral Kitchen – Expansion of meal program - renovation

Catholic Charities – Diocese of Camden
Establish asset development program and help to expunge criminal records

Center for Family Services – Apple A Day food program

Covenant House – NJ – Provide healthy food

Joseph's House of Camden – Build an addition for small health clinic at shelter

New Visions – Expand meal programs

HUNGER

Aquinas Center – Provide fresh, culturally relevant food to immigrant and refugee community in South Philly

Arch Street United Methodist Church – Assist with needed capital improvements to Grace Café

Beth Sholom Mitzvah Food Pantry – Renovation of space to make more accessible

Broad Street Ministry – Expand Hospitality Collaborative (food program)

Center for Hunger-Free Communities – Food for pantry and EAT Café program

Chosen 300 – Expand meal distribution at West Philadelphia Location

Coalition Against Hunger – Purchase healthy food for food pantries

Common Market – Build a job training kitchen

Community Center at Visitation – Support Fresh Choice Food Pantry

CSS - Casa del Carmen – Provide food

CSS - Family Service Center of Delaware County – Community Garden

CSS - St. John's Hospice – Food and supplies

Drueding Center – Build a kitchen

Face to Face – Purchase food

Feast of Justice – Expand Healthy Food in Community Program

Jewish Family and Children's Services – Emergency Food Assistance Program and capital funding to JFCS Children's den

Jewish Relief Agency – Expand monthly food distribution

KleinLife – Expand Cook for a Friend Program

MANNA – Support of comprehensive nutrition services for people who are nutritionally compromised

Masjidullah Inc. – Expand program, storage space, purchase refrigeration, provide after school and summer food program

Mitzvah Food Project – Increase distribution, expand SNAP recipients

Our Lady of Fatima – Outreach to help with nutritional food to day laborers

Our Mother of Sorrows – Repairs to the building

People's Emergency Center – Providing food at cupboard to residents of all ages

SHARE – Coolers for food cupboard

The Food Trust – Expand Philly Bucks Program to buy healthy food

Urban Tree Connection – Expand farmers market

HOMELESSNESS

Bethesda Project – Capital Repairs

CSS - Mercy Hospice – Kitchen renovation

CSS - St. Francis-St. Joseph-St. Vincent Homes for Children – Renovating five kitchens

Cradle of Hope – Expansion of Case Management Services

Depaul House – Challenge grant for Van and SEPTA transpasses

House of Grace Catholic Worker – Food, medical supplies

Legal Clinic for the Disabled – Rent and utility assistance

Mother of Mercy House – New ministry - hospitality center in Kensington- renovations of space

Mother's Home – Capital repairs to building

Pathways to Housing PA – Truck for Philadelphia Furniture Bank Program

Philly Restart – Secure ID's and healthy food program

Prevention Point Philadelphia – Expanding showers and food provisions in Kensington

Ready, Willing & Able – (Job Training) - Support Culinary Arts Program

SREHUP at the Arch St. Methodist Church – College student run winter emergency shelter at Arch Street Methodist Church

St. Francis Inn Ministries – Rental Assistance Program

Simple Homes Fuller Center – Capital repairs

Sisters of St. Joseph Welcome Center – Addition to outreach program to help with food and rent

The Attic Youth Center – Support the Attic's Food Distribution Program for LGBT youth

The Welcome Church (Lutheran Evangelical) – Focus on ministry to women

Unemployment Information Center – Help people with jobs, IDs and homeownership

TRAFFICKING

Covenant House – PA – Repairs to Crisis Center

Dawn's Place – Open new building and continue to serve the women in After Care and as outpatients

The Salvation Army – Support the New Day Drop-in Center

Women Against Abuse – Food services for woman, children affected by domestic abuse and trafficking

	Name	Project	Funding
1	Aquinas Center	Provide fresh, culturally relevant food to immigrant and refugee community in South Philly	\$15,000
2	Arch Street United Methodist Church	Assist with needed capital improvements to Grace Café	\$35,000
3	Beth Sholom Mitzvah Food Pantry	Renovation of space to make more accessible	\$10,000
4	Bethesda Project	Capital repairs	\$50,000
5	Broad Street Presbyterian Ministry	Expand Hospitality Collaborative (food program)	\$40,000
6	Cathedral Kitchen	Expansion of meal program - renovation	\$50,000
7	Catholic Charities - Diocese of Camden	Establish asset development program and help to expunge criminal records	\$23,375
8	Center for Family Services	Apple A Day food program	\$ 10,000
9	Center for Hunger-Free Communities	Food for pantry and EAT Café program	\$15,000
10	Chosen 300 - Baptist Ministry to the Hungry	Expand meal distribution at West Philadelphia Location	\$40,000
11	Coalition Against Hunger	Purchase healthy food for food pantries	\$10,000
12	Common Market	Build a job training kitchen	\$40,000
13	Community Center at Visitation	Support Fresh Choice Food Pantry	\$10,000
14	Covenant House - NJ	Provide healthy food	\$20,000
15	Covenant House - PA	Repairs to Crisis Center	\$25,000
16	Cradle of Hope	Expansion of Case Management Services	\$5,000
17	CSS - Casa del Carmen	Provide food	\$15,000
18	CSS - Family Service Center of Delaware County	Community Garden	\$17,018
19	CSS - Mercy Hospice	Kitchen renovation	\$30,000
20	CSS - St. Francis-St. Joseph-St. Vincent Homes for Children	Renovating five kitchens	\$55,000
21	CSS - St. John's Hospice	Food and supplies	\$15,000
22	Dawn's Place	Open new building and continue to serve the women in After Care and as outpatients	\$90,000
23	Depaul House	Challenge grant for Van and SEPTA transpasses	\$25,000
24	Drueding Center	Build a kitchen	\$40,000
25	Face to Face	Purchase food	\$10,000
26	Feast of Justice (St. John's Lutheran Church)	Expand Healthy Food in Community Program	\$15,000
27	House of Grace Catholic Worker	Food, medical supplies	\$46,800
28	Jewish Family and Children's Services	Emergency Food Assistance Program and capital funding to JFCS Children's den	\$65,000
29	Jewish Relief Agency	Expand monthly food distribution	\$15,000
30	Joseph's House of Camden	Build an addition for small health clinic at shelter	\$100,000
31	KleinLife	Expand Cook for a Friend Program	\$25,000

32	Legal Clinic for the Disabled	Rent and utility assistance	\$5,000
33	MANNA	Support of comprehensive nutrition services for people who are nutritionally compromised	\$10,000
34	Masjidullah Inc.	Expand program, storage space, purchase refrigeration, provide after school and summer food program	\$10,000
35	Mitzvah Food Project	Increase distribution, expand SNAP recipients	\$10,000
36	Mother of Mercy House	New ministry - hospitality center in Kensington- renovations of space	\$100,000
37	Mother's Home	Capital repairs to the building	\$20,000
38	New Visions	Expand meal programs	\$5,000
39	Our Lady of Fatima	Outreach to help with nutritional food to day laborers	\$10,000
40	Our Mother of Sorrows	Repairs to the building	\$10,000
41	Pathways to Housing PA	Truck for Philadelphia Furniture Bank Program	\$42,589
42	People's Emergency Center	Providing food at cupboard to residents of all ages	\$10,000
43	Philly Restart Christian Ministry	Secure ID's and healthy food program	\$15,000
44	Prevention Point Philadelphia	Expanding showers and food provisions in Kensington	\$60,000
45	Ready, Willing & Able	Support Culinary Arts Program	\$10,000
46	SHARE	Coolers for food cupboard	\$15,000
47	Simple Homes Fuller Center	Capital Repairs	\$5,000
48	Sisters of Saint Joseph Welcome Center	Addition to outreach program to help with food and rent	\$5,000
49	SREHUP at the Arch St. Methodist Church	College student run winter emergency shelter at Arch Street Methodist Church	\$20,000
50	St. Francis Inn Ministries	Rental Assistance Program	\$8,000
51	The Attic Youth Center	Support the Attic's Food Distribution Program for LGBT youth	\$10,000
52	The Food Trust	Expand Philly Bucks Program to buy healthy food	\$15,000
53	The Salvation Army	Support New Day Drop-in Center	\$5,000
54	The Welcome Church (Lutheran Evangelical)	Focus on ministry to women	\$5,000
55	Unemployment Information Center	Help people with jobs, IDs and homeownership	\$10,790
56	Urban Tree Connection	Expand farmers market	\$10,000
57	Women Against Abuse	Food services for women, children affected by domestic abuse and trafficking	\$20,000
	TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED		\$1,408,572

Appendix I

Major Donors, Partners, and Supporters

These are the organizations who received financial grants through the Francis Fund.

Leadership Gifts to the Francis Fund:

Connelly Foundation
Wells Fargo Bank
The Vincent & Veronica Anderson Fund
Anonymous
Aramark
Bank of America
Comcast – NBCUniversal
Exelon PECO
JBJ Soul Foundation
Janet & John Haas
Lynne & Harold Honickman
Maguire Family
Leigh & John Middleton
Brian & Aileen Roberts
Tracey & Shanin Specter
Saligman Foundation
Wawa

Organizations who so generously donated their time and talent to make Mercy and Justice possible:

Sage Communications
Message Agency
Canada Dry
Origlio Beverages
Keystone Outdoor
Interstate Outdoor
Out Front Media
Eye to Eye Media
Philadelphia Media Network
halfGenius

“A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just.” – *Pope Francis*



Pope Francis' hand blessing the Knotted Grotto.

Photo by Jeremy Cowart