



April 16, 2007

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St. Leo's Dedication

On Wednesday, April 11, 2007, Director Hein joined Cardinal Francis George of Chicago to formally dedicate St. Leo's Residence, a home providing shelter for 141 homeless veterans. The four-story residence, designed and built by Catholic Charities of Chicago on the former site of St. Leo the Great Church, was filled to capacity immediately upon opening in January. Each of its 141 residents pays \$325 per month for lodging and their stays are limited to no more than two years. Until January, these residents were counted among the estimated 300,000 homeless veterans—18,000 of whom live in Chicago—spread across the United States.

St Leo's Residence is funded through a loan guarantee pilot program authorized by Congress to reduce the number of homeless veterans living in our country. It is based on a multi-agency, holistic model of care for veterans. In addition to the residence, which has 141 studio apartments for transitional housing, the St. Leo's site includes a job training office, a community health center and an adjacent home for disabled veterans.

The St. Leo Campus for Veterans is the first facility of its kind in the country. Funded by a long list of public and private agencies ranging from the VA to the Archdiocese of Chicago, it's operated jointly by Catholic Charities and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The campus, open to people of all faiths, is the fruit of President

Bush's push for faith-based and community solutions to the nation's social problems.

“All of us find honor in accompanying those who have served us so well and are veterans of our country,” Cardinal George said. An “eternal flame” remembering Americans who have died in military service burns outside the residence's doors, but this home for veterans is no typical Veterans Affairs institution: photographs of Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI line the walls, interspersed with soaring eagles and inspirational quotes—an example of how the Initiative has made it possible for religious organizations to partner with government without being forced to change their religious mission statements or take down religious symbols.



Director Hein's remarks emphasized that partnerships with religious organizations are a crucial way for the Federal government to tackle problems such as veteran homelessness. "It is only through these organizations that we can reach further into neighborhoods that are underserved." The event was well-attended by distinguished guests and members of the press.

President Bush Delivers Remarks to the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast

On Friday, April 13, 2007 President Bush addressed the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast at the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C. The Breakfast was attended by distinguished guests and

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leaders, including Secretary of Veterans Affairs James Nicholson, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito, and Solicitor General Paul Clement. The President began his remarks joking, “I noticed that this year's breakfast was the Friday after Lent—you can eat your bacon in good conscience. And the priests can relax.”

The President spoke about his commitment to upholding the dignity of human life. “We must continue to work for a culture of life—where the strong protect the weak, and where we recognize in every human life the image of our Creator...One of the reasons that I am such a strong believer in the power of our faith-based institutions is that they add something the government never can, and that is love. In parishes and neighborhoods across our nation, Catholics take this call to heart -- and that is

why we find so many of you leading America's armies of compassion. You are changing America one heart, one soul at a time, and I thank you.” The President also praised America's Catholic schools for playing a vital role in our nation. “Renewing the promise of America also includes ensuring a sound education for every single child... These schools are serving thousands of non-Catholic children in some of nation's poorest neighborhoods. I appreciate the tremendous sacrifices that many dioceses are making to keep their inner-city schools going.”



President Bush Meets with Catholic Parochial School Educators at the White House

Following the Breakfast, on Friday afternoon, President Bush and Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings met with Catholic [parochial] school educators and parents from across the nation.

President Bush told attendees how parochial schools are making a big difference in the lives of some of our neediest children. “One of the greatest assets in the United States is the Catholic schools, which oftentimes educate the so-called hard to educate – and they do so in such a spectacular way.

During the meeting, President Bush stressed the importance of sustaining Catholic schools and meeting the needs of parents by having the Federal government provide opportunity scholarships for

parents, so that they can redeem that scholarship at a school of their choice.

He encouraged Congress to fully fund the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship and No Child Left Behind.



D.C. School Choice specifically empowers parents in Washington D.C to choose a better performing school. “If you're interested in

educational excellence, you can look at the Catholic schools in the United States of America, because they provide it – and for that, this country is very grateful.”

FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE THE WEEK AHEAD Monday, April 16, 2007 | Saturday, April 21, 2007

Monday, April 16

WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF FAITH BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES: Jay Hein hosts the monthly Compassion in Action Roundtable entitled, “The President’s Compassion Agenda: Promoting Service and Civic Engagement.”

Eisenhower Executive Office Building
Washington, DC

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY: Center's staff participates in the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD). Conference will take place from April 16th-20th.
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Tuesday, April 17

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR: Center's staff visits the Baltimore Offender Re-entry One Stop, a one-stop prisoner re-entry site.
Baltimore, Maryland

Wednesday, April 18

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION and DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: Shayam Maynard participates in a Mentoring Grant Technical Assistance Workshop. Elizabeth Robertson presents an At-Risk Youth workshop.
Chicago, Illinois

Thursday, April 19

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION and DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: Shayam Maynard participates in a Mentoring Grant Technical Assistance Workshop. Ben O'Dell presents an At-Risk Youth workshop.
Atlanta, Georgia

Friday, April 20

DEPARTMENT FOR THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Terri Hasdorff participates in the Infopoverty World Conference at a session entitled, "Fighting Poverty in National E-Strategies and International Development Plans."
New York City, New York