



St. Francis / St. Joseph Catholic Worker

*Spring
2006*

◆ P.O. Box 14274 ◆ Cincinnati, Ohio 45250 ◆ 1437 Walnut Street ◆ (513) 381-4941 ◆

From Homeless to Home Owner

DARIUS CLARK'S STORY

Darius Clark is a listener: he has the gift of learning from others. We saw this ability in Darius during his three month stay at the House. On Sept. 24, 2003 when Darius left us, he stated that though he still feared failure, he was determined not to give into that fear. Darius vowed then that he would not be homeless again.

In early 2005, I ran into Darius having a cup of coffee at a diner on 9th & Main St. Darius eagerly told me about his job, saying that he was now making it. He confided that he'd consulted with others on how to manage his money and how to clean up his old bills.

I affirmed to Darius that we all need help in some

area
of



our lives, as no one manages every area of his life well. I recognized that Darius had used his gift, and it served him well. We parted. After that, Darius would stop by the House at least every six weeks just to say "Hi" and tell us how he was doing. Now, he was working a second shift at the Sara Lee (Kahn's) plant.

On the March 25th of this year, Darius stopped by again and made this unbelievable statement, "I am buying a house and will have the closing in a couple of days."

The news really lifted the spirit of all who were at the House that night. Darius consented to have his picture taken at his new house and hopes his story will inspire others. We know he has.

..... Fr. Mark Schmieder

Great News for 2005

WOW Statistics! WOW Success!

What is success? At the Catholic Worker House, we try to remain faithful to our mission of serving the homeless. Above all, we aim to treat everyone with human dignity and respect as demanded by being a child of God.

So how are we doing? Here is our measure: In 2005, **we served a total 210 homeless men with 86 of those men moving onto independent living with a job. This is a 40% success ratio**, a very high statistic

according to the Cincinnati Homeless Information System. We served an additional 61 homeless men who had a stay of three days or less (which we do not count in our overall statistics).

The soup kitchen continues to serve about 120 meals a day, 3 days a week, over 18,000 meals a year.

We attribute our success to our dedicated staff, the spiritual formation that continues at the House, and above all to God with prayers by the donors, friends and volunteers for the House.



Leon, formerly a guest and now a chef at a restaurant, is carving a turkey for a supper at the Catholic Worker House

INVITATION

Welcome!

Please come & see...

Everyone is invited to come and see the Catholic Worker House at anytime. Please join us for a meal or to talk about how the House is managing. **Just call ahead @ 513.381.4941** and make arrangements with the staff person. You may even find a chess game waiting to happen.

University of Cincinnati: Tonya, a student in the school of Social Work at U.C., has just completed a 10 week internship by working with us at the House. Tonya tells us that the 6 hours a week she spent here was a most beneficial experience and has enabled her to move onto a good position at another agency. Good luck, Tonya, and God bless.

Northern Kentucky University: Professor Matt Shank is working with students to research avenues of development for the SFSJ Catholic Worker House to enable us to grow our mission. We'll keep you posted.

FEATURED VOLUNTEERS: Marie & Brennan Hill

Every Wednesday, **Marie and Brennan Hill** of Anderson Township volunteer to cook the evening meal at the Catholic Worker House. But, more than that, they stay and eat and share stories with the men at the big table. This has been occurring over the past two and half years and the men look forward to that meal.

Marie states, "We love to come. The spirit of the House is one of service and gratitude. It is a joy to see the men trying to change their lives and get on a more positive track."

At Xavier University, Brennan is known as Professor Hill. He has often brought students with him to the House both to help with the meal preparation and to share their experiences with the guests. Brennan has served on the Board of the Catholic Worker House for the past three years.

Additionally, Brennan is a published author. His book: "8 Spiritual Heroes: Their Search for God." (St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2002) features the lives of



Mohandas Gandhi, Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Jr., Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Oscar Romero, Edith Stein, Daniel Berrigan and Mother Teresa. Dorothy Day is the founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, and the Hills believe she was encouraged by the spirit of cooperation and courage displayed by staff and guests.

Marie is a marriage counselor and family mediator in private practice. They have two grown children and two grandchildren.

Praying for Difficult People or for an Enemy

*from: **Caring**, by Morton Kelsey, Paulist Press, 1981*

If you pray the following prayer as suggested, in a most sincere and profound manner, you will change; you will become the prayer. (While praying in this way, visualize a person and imagine the Risen Christ with him.)

Praying for people, especially praying for our enemies, is to pray the Lord's prayer for them: **If John is the one I am praying for, I say:**

**John's Father, who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name in John.
Thy Kingdom come in John
Thy will be done in John, on earth
just as if he were with you in heaven
Give him his daily bread,
all that he needs to sustain and enrich his life.
Forgive John and help him to forgive others.
Do not put John to the test,
as he is weak like the rest of us,
and please Deliver John from the evil one.
Let John's joy be in your kingdom
and power and glory forever and ever.**

(4)

HUNGER WALK & 5K RUN

May 29, 2006

The Freestore/Foodbank is again sponsoring the **Annual Hunger Walk and 5K Run on Memorial Day, May 29th**. Please Join the fun and **Walk with us** for the St. Francis/St. Joseph Catholic Worker House. Last year we were able to get over \$1100.00, which directly benefited our food account.

Starting Location: the YMCA near Elm St. & Central Parkway.

Pick-up your Packet : 7-9:00 a.m.

Runners step off: 9:00 a.m.

Walkers: 9:03 a.m.

Awards & Refreshments etc : 10:30

Taste of Cincinnati begins at 12:00

How to Register:

Online: www.freestorefoodbank.org

By Phone: 513.482.3663 with credit card

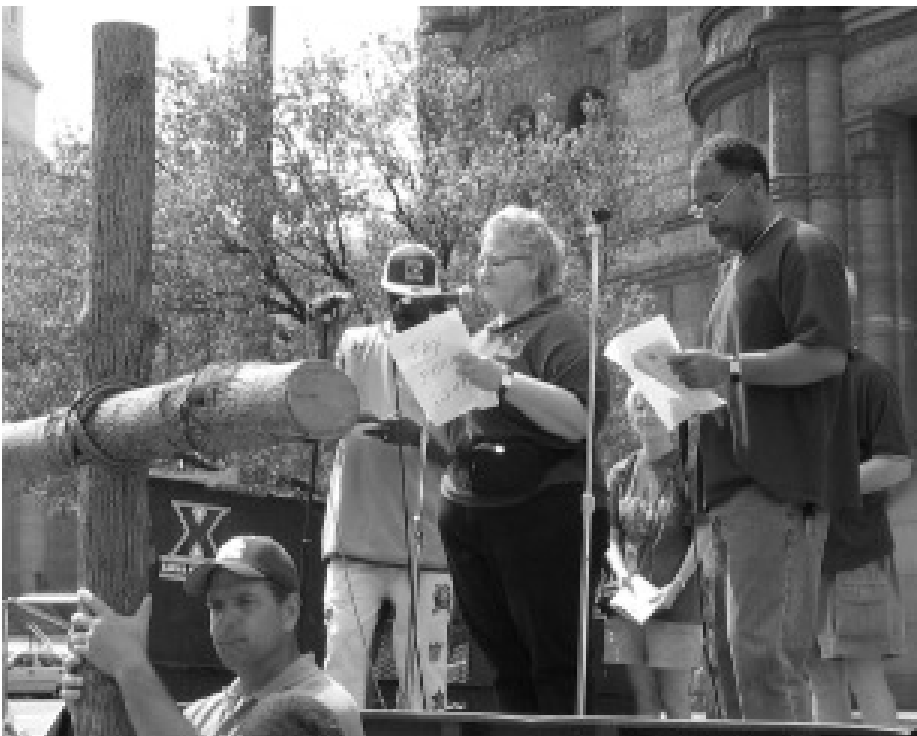
On Race Day: At the registration booth.

Mail-in Form : Call 513.381.4941

Entry fee: Before May 15th: \$20.00 with T-Shirt, \$15.00 without shirt

After May 15th: \$25.00 & \$20.00 reg.

NOTE: When you register, please say You are walking/running for the St. Francis/St. Joseph Catholic Worker House and we will get the credit.



Catholic Worker House and Anawim sponsored the Fifth Station of the Cross/Way of Justice, on Good Friday, going from the Freedom Center to Washington Park. Karl Fields, house manager, is on the right.



THANKS:

We thank all our donors and volunteers who help us to keep the House open and who help serve all those who come and go at the House.

IN MEMORIUM :

Star Wilson

*Born September 13, 1958 ,
died April 5, 2006*



Star Wilson came to the House as a guest in 1999 and went onto independent living. In 2003, Star Wilson became a regular financial contributor to the House sending \$10 or more a month. On April 5, 2006, Star suffered a massive heart attack and died rather suddenly. We give thanks for Star and pray that God welcomes Star in the fullness of the Kingdom.



Keith Waller, staffperson,
overseeing a mailing for the CW House.

Letter From David Huber, Long-time Volunteer

Some of you may remember me. From 1989 until 1999, I was closely involved with the St. Francis/St. Joseph Catholic Worker House, either as staff or volunteer. I moved to Massachusetts in 1999. There I became certified to teach English as a Foreign or Second Language.

This has been a very meaningful and rewarding vocation in many respects. I will always remember fondly the rich experience of living in the ethnically, culturally and linguistically diverse coastal Northeast. It's a fine place to live.

In February, I moved back to Cincinnati where I currently teach English to visiting foreigners. I am grateful for this vocation that I have discovered – my pearl of great price.

May I take this opportunity to commend and heartily thank House Manager, Karl Fields, and staff members Keith Waller, Calvin Hawkins, Ron Amos, Donald (Skip) Adams, and Michael Brown. They are dedicated to the well-being of all those who come knocking on the door in one of the worst imaginable of personal crises: homelessness. Homelessness is certainly an experience that can really be understood only by those who have experienced it themselves. Literally, having no place to go or having lost everything is a deeply harrowing and core-shaking experience.

And for all the donors, volunteers and friends of the House, thank you for your invaluable donations by which you provide the solution to this crisis in the lives of our homeless fellow Cincinnatians.

The SFSJ Catholic Worker House is your House, took because you keep it Alive. You make it possible for the House guests to gradually climb back onto their feet and regain the self-respect that is crucial to success in their struggle to re-establish themselves in a job and a new residence.

It is a pleasure for me to be part of this solution with you. I look forward to seeing and visiting with you at the Catholic Worker House.

.....*Sincerely, David Huber*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark C. Schmieder

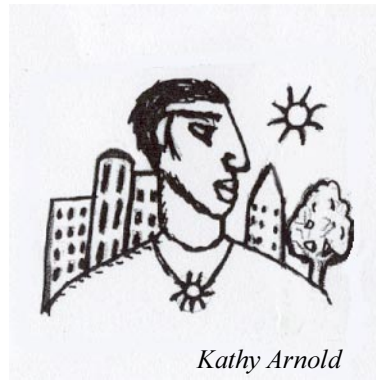
Brennan Hill

Joyce Kiernan

Michael Harmon

Arlene Turner

House Manager: Karl Fields



Kathy Arnold



Kathy Arnold

St. Francis/St. Joseph House of Hospitality strives to provide hospitality to homeless men. We recognize that God created each human being with great dignity and respect. The community of those of us who live and work at St. Francis/St. Joseph House of Hospitality desire to uphold this principle and to serve our guests accordingly. (Rev. 12/11/98)

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