

A Calling:

HOMELESS TO HOPEFUL

A working Committee on People Experiencing Homelessness was established and continues to engage in actions of education, collaboration and advocacy. One of the first actions of the Committee was to prepare a statement expressing the commitment of the Congregation: “A CALLING: HOMELESS TO HOPEFUL.” This statement gained the assent and commitment of members of the Sisters of Charity at a series of Congregational meetings in the Fall of 2020. To help keep this commitment foremost in our attention and prayer, the sisters and Seton Associates received refrigerator magnets with the text of the statement.



Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

Statement on People Experiencing Homelessness A CALLING: HOMELESS TO HOPEFUL

CONVENT STATION, NJ - The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth are committed to our mission to serve the poor and, as such, we recognize the devastating and pervasive growth of homelessness in our midst. People experiencing homelessness fit no stereotype; they are children, senior citizens, healthy and disabled, employed and non-employed, educated and undereducated. They sleep in cars, under highways and in doorways; as well as in barns and railroad stations. There is no single definition of the lives and causes of people being homeless.

- ★ We believe that access to safe, affordable, and permanent housing is a measure of a just and human society and is at the heart of the common good.
- ★ We affirm that homelessness is a rampant moral and ethical crisis demanding efforts and solutions that recognize the dignity of each person and ensure their quality of life.
- ★ We call ourselves and others to develop a systemic program to enhance the life and dignity of all and to create solutions to alleviate this crisis.
We acknowledge that there is no one solution to homelessness. Conscious of that framework, we commit ourselves to:
- ★ Educate ourselves and others about the dimensions of homelessness and actions we can take to make a difference, especially in areas where we serve and minister.
- ★ Collaborate with others who are working to address this crisis on the local and global levels, e.g. community-based programs, ecclesial initiatives, other religious communities.
- ★ Advocate for political, economic and social policies which will bring solutions for the causes of homelessness and provide affordable housing for all.
Through commitment, advocacy and influence, each of us can make a difference. You are called to join us in implementing these efforts to bring about systemic and lasting change which will strengthen the fabric of our society as a whole.

www.SCNJ.org

If you would like one of these magnets, please
send a request to escharity@scnj.org