



The Father McKenna

C E N T E R I N C



MEETING NEEDS . . . RECLAIMING LIVES

## Slow Miracles . . . Making a Difference

March 2020 Issue

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CFC Charity # 32524

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The Father McKenna  
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### The Father McKenna Center Celebrates “Gratitude and Recommitment”

On Thursday, February 13 The Father McKenna Center gathered friends, donors, program participants and others to celebrate the successful completion of the renovation of the lower level of St. Aloysius Church. It was a Grand Re-Opening!

Formerly the space served as the Lower Church for St. Aloysius Parish on weekends and served as The Father McKenna Center during the week. The spaces were not configured well for the Center, and we “made do.”

Now the spaces are more appropriately sized for the program, with a meeting room, upgraded bathroom facilities and other functional areas for staff and guests.

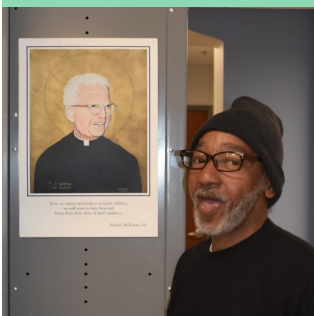
At the Re-Opening The McKenna Singers Quartet performed. Danny Dotson, a ‘graduate’ of our programs, spoke of how the Center helped him rebuild his life. After Kim Cox offered thanks to those who played roles in the *Slow Miracles Campaign* and the construction, Fr. Gap LoBiondo, the Center’s chaplain, offered a blessing of “The Father McKenna Center 2.0.” (See photo above.)

Cortez McDaniel, the Director of Services at The Father McKenna Center, reflected, “I am sure that Fr. McKenna would be very happy with what we have done with the Center. And I know that the men we serve are responding to the improved environment. Many are more focused about doing what they need to do to move out of their homelessness. The new Center is making a real difference.”



## Guest Spotlight

### Roland Winkler



"I am a giving person, and I have learned through giving of myself, that I also need to allow others to care for me." This is the insight of Roland Winkler, as he struggles to rebuild his life after a traumatic encounter with fentanyl last summer.

"For a lifetime I have worked with my hands, as a retailer, restaurateur and many other skills. This is the first time in my life when I have had to rely on others. And while I am making progress, it isn't always easy."

Last fall Roland came upon another man struggling with homelessness. Maxwell had suffered a series of strokes and needed a friend. For six months Roland has been that friend!

Cortez McDaniel invited Roland and Maxwell into the Hypothermia / Transition Program in late October, and in the next few weeks discovered that among Roland's many skills was music. Roland became one of The McKenna Singers and joined The McKenna Singers Quartet.

"I had heard that Cortez was tough on men who come to the Center. He hasn't disappointed me, but he has also been a great help to me! I am proud to be associated with The Father McKenna Center!"

Roland, we are happy you came to the Center!

**Save the Date**  
**4th Annual Walk for McKenna**  
**Saturday, September 19, 2020**  
**8:00 am @ Gonzaga**



**Entry Fee is \$35.00 (includes a t-shirt and a Continental Breakfast)**

**[www.fathermckennacenter.org/walk](http://www.fathermckennacenter.org/walk)**

## A Special Volunteer

"I have served in a number of programs that feed the homeless and hungry. With my home parish, with my high school and now in seminary I have always sought out a place to serve that helps the most needy in the community," commented Ben Schrantz on his most recent day of service with The Father McKenna Center.

Ben is a first-year theology student at Theological College and Catholic University. Two years ago he

### Volunteer Spotlight



**Benjamin Schrantz**

came to the Center for a required day of service, but he has felt so connected that he continues to come about every other week. Ben's willingness to do whatever he is asked, and his great sense of humor make him one of our favorite volunteers.

"One of the most important things for me is that at The Father McKenna Center there is great interaction with the men that we serve. There is a sense that this is a community of support for the men who are our companions on the journey of life."

"I have always felt welcomed by the Center staff, and by the men. Coming to the Center is always a highlight of my week. It reminds me why I first felt called to enter into formation for the priesthood - to be someone who cares for all of God's Children."

### Father McKenna Center Wish List

The Father McKenna Center relies on the generous support of the community.

For more information, please visit our website:

[www.fathermckennacenter.org](http://www.fathermckennacenter.org)

#### Food Items

- Jelly (in plastic containers)
- Canned Baked Beans (18 oz. or smaller)
- Pancake Syrup (16 oz. or smaller)
- Canned Chicken or Tuna (12 oz or smaller)

To make a donation, please call FMC (202-842-1112) to alert us that you are coming. We will assist you to bring your contribution into the Center.

#### Clothing

Our need is for men's casual clothing.

With warmer weather coming soon, we need:

- Men's Shorts
- Casual shirts (polos & t-shirts)
- Socks (particularly white)

If you have suits and sports coats to donate, please call Strive DC at 202-484-1264.



# The Grand Re-Opening, Feb. 13, 2020



## The Father McKenna Center 2.0

Everyone is welcome to visit the Center to see the total renovation  
and to experience the good work that goes on in the Center every day!

To arrange for a tour, contact Ned Hogan at [nhogan@fathermckennacenter.org](mailto:nhogan@fathermckennacenter.org)





From the desk of

## ***Kimberly Cox, FMC President***

"Do you know what it is like to be homeless?" I cannot imagine how it feels, I have always had a place to stay. But for 1% of the population of Washington, DC homelessness is a reality on any given night. The life of a person struggling with homelessness is chaotic, depressing and a constant challenge.

The Father McKenna Center is here to serve as a lifeline for the men who come through our door each day. We offer an ordered schedule, support and companionship on their journey to end their homelessness. And through our Case Management team, we offer advice and guidance on how to overcome homelessness and move to a stable and productive life.

On February 13, at our Grand Re-Opening I had the pleasure to thank hundreds of people who made the successful renovation of the lower level of St. Aloysius Church possible. From the donors whose generosity allowed us to make these renovations, to the architects and contractors who remade this building into a really amazing space for the people we serve. I also got to thank our amazing team here at The Father McKenna Center for their willingness to work through the noise and the dust of the renovations!



**New Meeting Room at FMC**

Now, we recommit ourselves to the men and families we serve. We choose, every day, to reach out a hand in support - to offer hope, to offer a new way, to offer a warm smile and a generous heart to those who come to us in need. One of the gifts of the ***Slow Miracles Campaign*** is that we have funds to hire an additional member of the Case Management Team who will expand our services to those who come each day, but also to help us reach out to the men who have successfully taken the steps they needed to find a home, a job and to rebuild their lives. This service for "McKenna Men" will encourage and support them in their new homes and new lives.

As we enter into the season of Lent and look ahead to Easter Joy, I am reminded that Jesus calls us to "love your neighbor, as you love yourself." That commandment challenges me, and you, to reach out in real care and commitment to our brothers and sisters. It is by our works that they will know that we are truly followers of Christ. My Easter prayer is that we all can commit ourselves to love as Jesus loves and to reach out in love to our brothers and sisters. Happy Easter to all!

## **Lessons & Carols - A Special Evening of Prayer & Praise**

The newest tradition at The Father McKenna Center is Lessons & Carols. It is a partnership between The Father McKenna Center, Holy Redeemer Parish's The Least of These Gospel Choir, The Jesuit Community of St. Aloysius Gonzaga and Gonzaga College High School.

The evening includes nine lessons from a variety of sources, biblical and spiritual, and a series of songs, spirituals and carols. The goal of the evening is to prepare the participants for the celebration of Christmas.



The highlight of the evening on December 18, 2019 was the McKenna Center Singers, men from the Hypothermia / Transition Program and Cortez McDaniel. The Quartet is pictured above.

**Save The Date—Saturday, December 19, 2020 at 7:00 pm**