

Bishop Moves to Maintain Community Services at St. Procop Site

Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, Most Rev. Richard G. Lennon, has decided to donate the former St. Procop convent to the Community Service Alliance (“CSA”), the parent organization which assists men moving out of homelessness and into self-sufficiency. CSA has operated its successful housing program in the former convent, now known as Procop House, for the past five years.

St. Procop Parish, which closed on August 30, 2009, has been home of several neighborhood outreach programs serving the West 41st and Clark neighborhood. When the decision to close the parish was announced by the Diocese, many expressed concern about the future of those programs given the great need in that neighborhood. Sharing those concerns, Bishop Lennon began seeking ways to allow continuation of those needed services. One of the Bishop’s first moves was to ensure that the parish’s food pantry program would continue to provide meals by securing a new home at the nearby parish of St. Augustine. In addition, the parishes of St. Rocco and St. Boniface now will serve a hot meal each first Friday of the month at St. Boniface, 3545 W. 54th Street.

In approving the Procop House donation, Bishop Lennon recognized the significant building renovations completed by CSA and believes the donation of the building answers the call to serve the poor and needy. As Bishop Lennon has said, “An important aspect of the Diocese clustering and reconfiguration program has been to keep the Church’s presence where it is needed, maybe not as a worship site, but in keeping with our Catholic social teaching, reaching out to those who are in need.”

Community Service Alliance Executive Director, Jeff Nichols agrees, adding, “This generous offer also continues the legacy of St. Procop parish as an outreach to those who are suffering in our community.”

CSA is actively involved in the local community through job placements (22 YTD). Annually, 40-50 men housed at Procop House participate in employment training and community service while learning skills which they need to break out of the cycle of homelessness. CSA will have a capital campaign specifically for a new roof, boiler and other immediate needs at the site.