



**For Release:  
June 27, 2016**

**Bethany Shaw/[bshaw@ccpgh.org](mailto:bshaw@ccpgh.org) or 412-456-6968  
Media contact at event: Bethany Shaw Cell: 412-401-4723**

## **BLESSING AND RE-DEDICATION: ST. JOSEPH'S HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY**

**(Note: Media coverage is welcome through-out the event.)**

On Monday, June 27, Johnna Pro of the state Department of Community and Economic Development, County Executive Richer Fitzgerald, and Mayor Bill Peduto will join Bishop David A. Zubik for a re-dedication ceremony to celebrate important renovations to St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, a program that has been serving older homeless men in the Hill District for almost 80 years.

First opened as a soup kitchen by the Catholic Worker Movement in 1937, St. Joseph's has occupied its current location at 1635 Bedford Avenue in the Hill District for almost 42 years. Catholic Charities operates its St Joseph's program as the only one of its kind in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Residents who make St. Joseph's their home are provided with a single room of their own, year-round food service, and a wide array of case management services suited to their unique challenges. This outreach serves men aged 50 and older – many who have been homeless for years.

The re-dedication honors contributions from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Allegheny County, and the City of Pittsburgh which made possible valuable safety upgrades to the building. Thanks to an Emergency Solutions Grant administered by the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development, the entrance and restrooms at St. Joe's are now wheelchair-accessible, and, with the aid of funding from the City and County, Catholic Charities has begun installation of a new fire suppression system.

"I know I speak for the 60 residents of St. Joe's," says program administrator Tom Kneier, "when I say we are deeply grateful for these wonderful improvements that will enable us to support our clients, especially those with disabilities."

Monday's program will run from 2 to 3 p.m, with KDKA Morning Radio host Larry Richert serving as master of ceremonies. Kneier, a St. Joe's resident, and Johnna Pro of the state Department of Community and Economic Development, will also address guests.

Weather permitting, the re-dedication and blessing will take place in front of the entrance to St. Joseph's. In the event of rain, guest remarks and the ceremony will transfer to the facility dining hall. After the presentations, guests can enjoy an optional facility tour and light refreshments

For more information about Catholic Charities' programs and services, visit [www.ccpgh.org](http://www.ccpgh.org).

###

*Catholic Charities is the primary social service agency of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, serving all, regardless of faith, race, or personal beliefs, in their time of great need. Founded in 1910 to provide assistance to immigrants new to the Pittsburgh area, Catholic Charities provided those new Pittsburghers with food, clothing, and shelter, and helped to smooth their transition to a new life. Compelled by charity and love, we have grown to serve the human needs of individuals and families throughout the counties of the Diocese: Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Greene, Lawrence, and Washington.*