

# Meet Our New Program Director, Barry Martin!

All my life, I have considered myself an “itinerant social worker” in the same way that Jesus was considered an itinerant teacher. I always believed that the Lord had been aligning my steps, both professionally and spiritually, for a greater cause beyond my imagination, I just never knew what that was until I arrived at St. John's Hospice.

My first experience with St. John's came after moving to Philadelphia and working in Center City for JEVS as a Program Supervisor. While I was there, I befriended a man experiencing homelessness who I looked out for. I knew I wanted to connect him with a shelter that could get him the help he needed and could also support him in his strong Catholic faith. This was when I learned about St. John's Hospice.

Upon setting foot in the facility, I remember seeing the lithograph of Christ in the Breadline for the first time and having an overwhelmingly profound experience. This experience infused my spirit, and I knew God was speaking to my heart. I felt called to continue my involvement with St. John's and was given the opportunity to volunteer and share my talents as the musical entertainment for the men after their meals.

Following that summer, my journey led me to New York to work for Pax Christi, a homeless shelter in Long Island, as a Clinical Supervisor while my wife attended school. Once her schooling had finished, we were at a bit of crossroads, unsure where our journey would take us next. One afternoon, I prayed to the Lord, asking Him to guide my feet and lead me to where he needed my service. After

my prayer, I was overcome with the notion to call St. John's Hospice, to where I learned that a position had just opened.

I moved back to Philadelphia and joined the team as a Case Manager in 2012, where I shortly after evolved into the role of Program Supervisor of the Good Shepherd Program and even started a choir group amongst the men called the Good Shepherd Singers. In September of 2021, I was blessed with the opportunity to represent the clients and staff of St. John's as the Program Director.

During my time at St. John's, I have watched men enter the program feeling hopeless, that life has passed them by, and who have been severely traumatized by homelessness. The greatest reward is watching that continuum of care take place in someone and the complete transformation of their being. We have men in our facility who come to us from prison, have severe medical needs, have slept on the street for years, and have been isolated from society. Watching these men come into our program at the lowest point in their lives to have a complete evolution of personality, combat their demons, work towards securing a job, and getting the keys to their own apartment – there is no greater sense of joy for me.

“The world does not revolve around each of us as individuals, as much as it revolves around all of us and our collective efforts as a whole. Our strength and greatness are not found in the singular glory of hearing one's name associated with success. We must remember that all credit goes to all of us, for we are all children of God and God is Love.”

## Barry Martin

Program Director, St. John's Hospice  
& the Good Shepherd Program



Programs providing crucial, life-sustaining services with dignity, respect, and compassion to homeless men in Philadelphia.

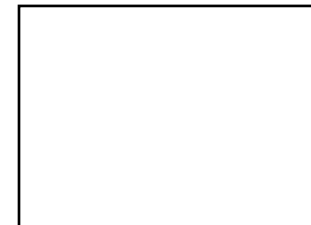
A Division of Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

SAINT JOHN'S HOSPICE is a Catholic Social Services shelter for men located in Center City Philadelphia. St. John's provides crucial life sustaining services with dignity, respect and compassion to homeless men in Philadelphia

[saintjohnshospice.org](http://saintjohnshospice.org)

St. John's Hospice  
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SAINT John's HOSPICE



## St. Charles Borromeo and St. Paul Seminarians Visit St. John's Hospice



On August 6th, a group of seminarians from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, along with Most Reverend John J. McIntyre, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia, paid a visit to St. John's Hospice to raise awareness for vocations throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and to help serve lunch to our men. Every year, participating riders complete a five-day pilgrimage across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to raise awareness for vocations to the priesthood, vocational discernment, and for support of the seminarians who are in formation. Their trek represents their journey to priesthood and allows them to familiarize themselves with the community they hope to serve one day. We were overjoyed to have been included as a stop along their very important journey! To learn more about Biking for Vocations, please visit [www.heedthecall.org/bikingforvocations/](http://www.heedthecall.org/bikingforvocations/).

Earlier in the summer on July 11th, St. John's wel-

comed five seminarians from St. Paul Seminary in Pittsburgh to stay for the week to fellowship, share meals with the men, and help out wherever needed. Before arriving at St. John's, the seminarians were given no notice of where their weeklong stay would be taking place as a means to create a humbling, vulnerable, and immersive service session. While the seminarians provided great physical support around St. John's during their week stay, they also provided significant support on an emotional level through their connection and conversations with the men. In reflecting on their week spent, many of the seminarians shared how impressed they were with the determination and openmindedness of the men and how impactful it was to be able to connect with them on a more personal level. Thank you so much to the St. Paul Seminarians for investing your time, talent, and treasure at St. John's Hospice!

## Congratulations to our Graduates!



We are excited to announce that in 2021, we have initiated a graduation program from St. John's Hospice/Good Shepherd program to celebrate the men who move on to permanent housing! An accomplishment of this magnitude is of no easy feat – Each of the

men that graduated have demonstrated incredibly hard work and dedication to get to this point and we could not be more excited to see what God has planned next for them in their journey. To stay up to date with the excitement of our graduation ceremonies, be sure to check out our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/saintjohnshospice/](https://www.facebook.com/saintjohnshospice/).



## Boot Up Philly Distribution Day!

On Saturday, October 23rd, the St. John's Hospice community hosted the inaugural Boot Up Philly Distribution Day! Inspired by our annual Boot Drive, this initiative expanded St. John's cold weather gear outreach significantly this year. Because of your generosity, we greatly exceeded our goal and served over 400 men, women, and children and distributed thousands of undergarments, feminine products, coats, food, and of course, boots! The excess of boots will be on reserve at St. John's for men as needed and the remainder of funds raised will go towards supporting the general mission of St. John's Hospice throughout the year. Thank you for your amazing support!



## Archbishop Perez Visits St. John's Hospice for a Philly-Style Meal



On June 2nd, Archbishop Nelson Perez stopped by St. John's Hospice to take part in our monthly Bishop's Dinner, where the Archbishop was able to share a meal and partake in fellowship with over 100 of our clients. Our newly instated Bishop Dinners were created as a means for Archbishop Perez, alongside his four auxiliary bishops and other archdiocesan staff, to break bread with our men in a fun and joyous setting. Some delicious treats, including Italian hoagies, soft pretzels, Tastykakes, and water ice, were served up to encompass the perfect Philly-Style meal for our guests. In addition to the meal, the event featured raffles, prayer intentions, and musical performances by the SJH Good Shepherd Singers and members of St. Raymond of Penafort Parish in Philadelphia. It was a wondrous night full of laughter and fellowship and we cannot wait for the next!