

## **Interfaith Sanctuary Housing Services, Inc.**

**Press Conference 09/05/07**

### **Bishop Mike Driscoll's Statement**

Good Morning. My name is Sister Arlene Ellis, Chancellor of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise. I bring you warm salutations and blessings from Bishop Michael Driscoll, who is recovering from back surgery. Bishop Driscoll wanted you to know that his prayers of joy are offered this morning for the blessings God has rained down on Interfaith Sanctuary, our friends who are homeless, and the community.

Two years ago, Bishop Driscoll sent Will Rainford, his legislative advocate, to a meeting of faith representatives, to discuss homelessness in the community. Bishop Driscoll was quite dismayed to learn that hundreds of people were living in parks, under bridges, and along the river bank. He vowed to work closely with other faith leaders to create a response to homelessness that provided not only shelter, but pathways out of homelessness. Thanks to the hard work of very dedicated people, Interfaith Sanctuary was born. Over the two years since its creation, Interfaith Sanctuary has sheltered and helped over 500 different people who are homeless. Thank God for Interfaith Sanctuary and the people who serve to help by volunteering, providing resources, and funding the shelter's operations.

Today, we stand in front of a building that evidences God's love for His people and His faithfulness in answering prayers. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise is thrilled to participate in the loaning of funds to Interfaith Sanctuary so that this building may be opened to people who are homeless and in need of shelter and supportive services. We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our brothers and sisters of many faiths—Mormons, Jews, Muslims, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Methodists, Hare Krishna's, Baptists, Lutherans, and others—in ensuring that Interfaith Sanctuary continues to be able to shelter and support people who are homeless.

Bishop Driscoll also wishes to thank one of our dear Catholic sons, Mayor Dave Bieter, for his support of Interfaith Sanctuary and people who are homeless. It is when the faith community joins government and business that cities solve problems and become great! The future of our city looks brighter, given today's accomplishment. Thank you, Mayor Bieter!

Bishop Driscoll calls on all people in the Treasure Valley of faith and good conscience to join him in praying for our friends who are homeless. He also calls all of us to support the mission of Interfaith Sanctuary through generous contributions of time, talent, and treasure. Volunteer to work at Interfaith Sanctuary. Donate goods and services. Send money. We all need to embrace our friends who are homeless by supporting Interfaith Sanctuary!

Thank you and be blessed this day by Jesus our Lord