



Saint Benedict Joseph Labre (1748-1783). Saint Benedict Joseph is considered the patron saint of the homeless.

Following his multiple rejections from religious orders, Benedict Joseph changed his plan. As his confessor wrote in his biography, he determined "that it was God's will that like St. Alexis he should abandon his country, his parents, and whatever is flattering in the world to lead a new sort of life, a life most painful, most penitential, not in a wilderness nor in a cloister, but in the midst of the world, devoutly visiting as a pilgrim the famous places of Christian devotion".



Outreach to the Homeless within the Diocese of Boise falls under the Directorate of the Permanent Diaconate, Office of Pastoral Outreach and works collaboratively with all parishes, faith communities, and outside agencies throughout the diocese's geographical region.

The mission of our outreach to the homeless is to promote Christ's love through assistance, education and social interaction to the homeless. This ministry also extends to those agencies helping the homeless transition back into society and become fully sheltered and independent citizens.

The Catholic bishops believe decent, safe, and affordable housing is a human right. Catholic teaching supports the right to private property, but recognizes that communities and the government have an obligation to ensure the housing needs of all are met, especially poor and vulnerable people and their families. At a time of rising homelessness and when many workers' wages are stagnant and living expenses are rising, it is important to ensure housing security.

The Diocese currently supports the efforts of Saint Vincent DePaul, Catholic Charities, Interfaith Sanctuary and the Corpus Christi House in their work to advocate, shelter, and transition homeless individuals and families to a fully sheltered and independent life. Parishioners interested in participating in homeless ministry should contact the Coordinator of Diocesan Pastoral Outreach.

Coordinator of Diocesan Pastoral Outreach
Pastoral Ombudsman for Homelessness

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