

FOCUS

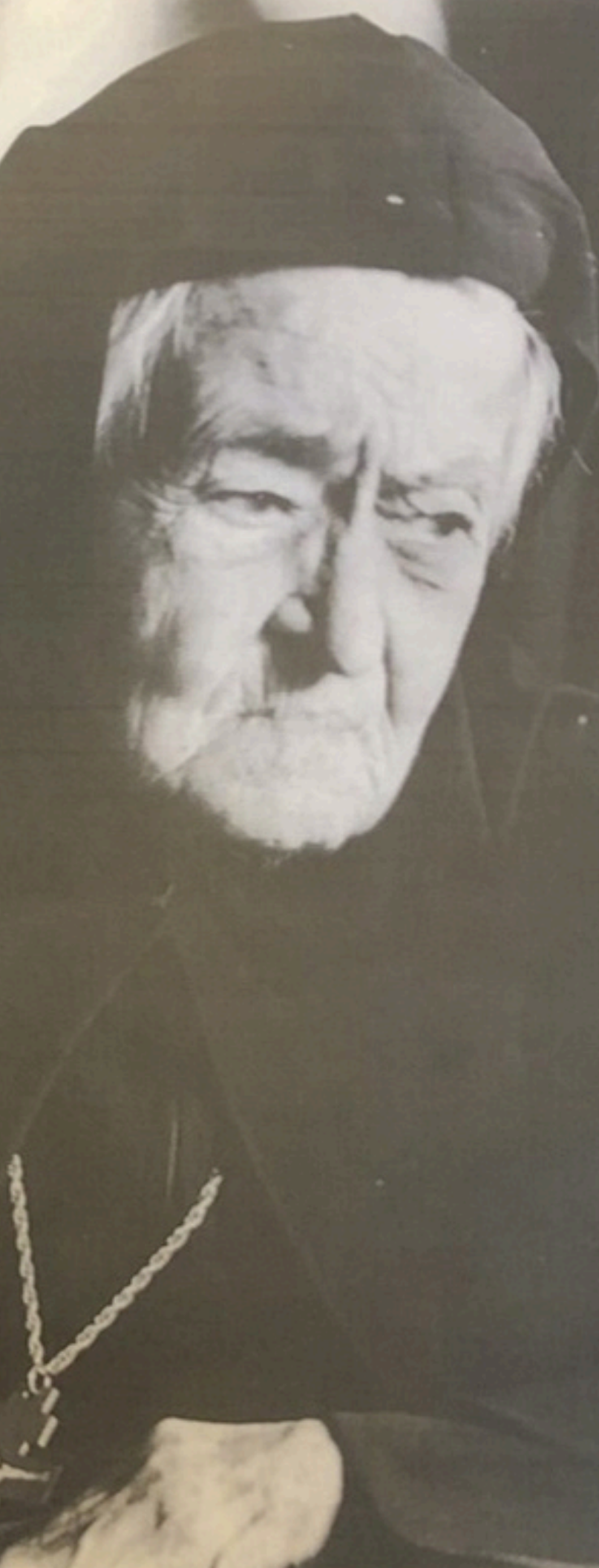
+ CLEVELAND - ST. HERMAN HOUSE +



Mother + Mary

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN





Almost 50 years ago Mother Mary Blossom had a vision to come to Cleveland and feed the poor and hungry. She teamed up with Fr. Gregory Reynolds, who had a similar vision to create St. Herman House of Hospitality. They purchased the house at 4410 Franklin Boulevard and started serving their neighbors on September 27, 1977. As they established themselves as a place of refuge and hospitality, their ministry grew to serving three meals a day.

Mother Mary would start preparing meals in the humble beginnings of a kitchen. They had a few tables and a dozen chairs. While Mother was preparing meals, Fr. Gregory would go into the community to find hungry neighbors to fill those chairs. This continued for several years, but Mother Mary had bigger dreams. She wanted to create a monastery-type environment where men could have their basic needs met and access to resources to help them get back on their feet.

For more than 45 years, St. Herman's House of Hospitality has been a place of refuge, community, and renewal for men experiencing homelessness in Ohio City, a near west suburb of Cleveland. Every day, hundreds of community members find meals, shelter, support, and the dignity of being known by name. FOCUS North America acquired St. Herman House in 2013 and has continued the amazing work of Mother Mary and Fr. Gregory.

But to meet the growing needs of our community—and to serve with excellence—we must renew and expand our facilities. We've aptly named this endeavor the Mother Mary Capital Campaign. With a renewed passion of our founders, our goal for this campaign is to strengthen the heart of our mission through critical renovations and expansions that will ensure hundreds of men and community members are served for decades to come.

Why Now?

Across Ohio, the housing crisis is placing immense strain on the most vulnerable members of our communities. Nearly half of the state's 1.6 million renters now spend more on housing than they can reasonably afford, and experts estimate that 266,000 additional affordable housing units are needed statewide to meet the demand. In Cleveland alone, the shortage is estimated at 54,000 affordable homes, leaving many working families and individuals with few stable options.

For the lowest-wage workers, rent often consumes most of their income—leaving little for food, healthcare, or unexpected expenses. One setback can quickly lead to housing instability or homelessness.

For decades, FOCUS Cleveland – St. Herman House has faithfully responded to these challenges through daily ministry, accompaniment, and practical support for neighbors in need. Now, as the need grows, the ministry must grow as well.

The Mother Mary Capital Campaign marks the first capital campaign in the history of FOCUS Cleveland – St. Herman House—a testament to the ministry's longstanding operational stability and faithful stewardship. After years of proven impact, this moment represents an opportunity to strengthen and expand this vital work for the future.



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Resident Spotlight

Pat came to St Herman's in early February 2024 with the weight of the world on his shoulders. He is the father of 3 teenage sons and describes himself as a very "hands-on dad." After losing his job because of its demanding schedule and late nights, Pat was eventually evicted. That's when he called St. Herman House.

"I would like to give thanks to St. Herman House for being an intricate part of my current journey. I still cannot express the gratitude I have for them for taking me in and allowing me to reestablish myself. I had a chance to see another side of life that no one ever thinks can happen to them, but it can happen to anybody: homelessness. I had a chance to see how good I still had it because I was at St. Herman's. They kept me in a stable position, which enabled me to find work & housing. Kirk Ries is forever appreciated for taking me in, and Mary Ellen Jordan went above and beyond to help me with housing. I can't thank St. Herman's enough; I'm forever grateful and I'm forever a Herman at heart."

The day he moved out, he brought his 13-year-old son with him. Pat wanted his youngest to see where he had been staying, and he wanted him to meet his St. Herman's family.

It's worth mentioning that Pat is 6 ft. 8" tall, and to watch him become emotional and tearful when introducing his son to the other St. Herman's residents and staff was quite moving. His parting words to our director were, "Thank you for giving me a chance. I honestly do not know where I would be without St Herman's."

Project 1:

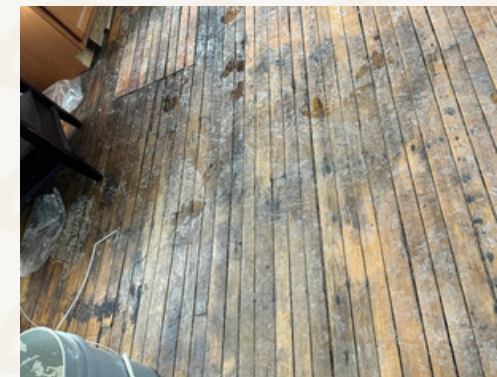
Transitional House II (Valaam Commons) Renovation

\$600,000

With \$200,000 already committed, this is the anchor project of the campaign, including renovations to our newly purchased property containing eight (8) apartments that will expand our transitional housing program and free up emergency beds at the main house.

- Renovate property according to priorities found in Home Inspection:
 - Replace Fire escape
 - Update electrical and plumbing
 - Replace Gutters and improve drainage system
 - Update floors and replace windows as needed
 - Ensure all units are up to code and are a safe and productive environment for all residents
 - Create a meeting space for support groups such as AA, Al-Anon, GA, and other self-help gatherings

Impact: More capacity for emergency and short-term shelter, more pathways to stability for men and creating opportunities as they work towards recovery and independence.



Project 2:

Renovation of Existing Transitional House

\$450,000

The current long-term transitional house is well-loved, rundown and outlived expectations. Renovations will include:

- New bathrooms
- New windows & gutters
- Reimagined kitchen – currently no usable cooking space
- Flooring & cosmetic improvements
- Update electrical and HVAC
- Update the porch and front steps for safety and accessibility
- New fire escape

Impact: A dignified, safe, functional home environment where men can truly begin rebuilding their lives. The transitional house has proven to be one of the best paths for permanent housing and independence for individuals who are committed to regaining their independence and renewing their livelihood.



Project 3:

Garage/Storage Facility & Fence

\$350,000



Our vehicles and equipment are currently exposed to weather, animals, theft, and vandalism. A new garage and fence will:

- Protect vehicles essential to daily operations
- Grade the lot to maximize efficiency
- Provide safe storage for tools and other supplies
- Separate vehicles, tools, and kitchen supplies properly
- Add additional security cameras to cover the complete property
- Protect staff, volunteers, residents and guests
- Dumpster relocation

Impact: Better stewardship of resources and improved safety, as well as maximize and beautify the yard that will improve the outdoor meal service.

Project 4:

15 Passenger Transportation Vehicle

\$100,000



Our current van has been well used for transporting men, picking up food bank orders, helping our residents move into new living spaces and picking up donations. Transporting several residents becomes difficult because we are constantly removing and installing the bench seats. We are in need of a new 15 passenger transport vehicle that will:

- Provide safe and reliable transportation for our staff and residents
- Allow us to schedule more group outings and social activities for our residents
- Provide a better option for transporting our residents to assignments within the Jobs Program as well as other employment/medical opportunities
- Simpler and safer loading and unloading of passengers

Impact: Safe and reliable transportation for our staff and residents to and from festivals, Jobs Program/work opportunities and social activities.

Ways to Give:

Your generosity strengthens the ministry of FOCUS Cleveland – St. Herman House and advances the work of the Mother Mary Capital Campaign. Every gift helps ensure that this ministry of hospitality, dignity, and hope continues to serve our neighbors in need for generations to come.

The simplest way to support The Mother Mary Capital Campaign is through our secure online giving page.

Scan the QR code or visit sainthermans.org/mothermary to learn more and make your gift.



Other Ways to Give:

In addition to online gifts, there are several other ways to support FOCUS Cleveland through the Mother Mary Capital Campaign. Donors may choose to give through appreciated stock or securities, wire transfers, donor-advised funds, the Combined Federal Campaign for federal employees, employer matching gifts, qualified charitable distributions from an IRA, or planned legacy gifts through a will or estate plan. These options can provide tax advantages while allowing your generosity to make an even greater impact for neighbors in need.

**Contact our Director of Development, Sarah (Werner) Popovici to learn more:
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