

**From a brothel to a safe home for women survivors of human trafficking, YOU can be the difference.**

June 25, 2023

RE: St. Anne's House

Dear Friends,

In late 2020, Fr. Philip Erickson, pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows, envisioned a new project to repurpose a vacant church-owned building. His vision is to renovate St. Anne's House into transitional housing for women survivors of human trafficking. The Pax Christi Collaborative wants to take what was once a brothel and transform it into a safe haven for survivors in our community. To learn the fascinating history of the house, please see Lisa Pisterman's article, at <https://www.leoweekly.com/2021/03/story-anna-haines-louisville-famous-madam-former-brothel-become-house-healing/> or you can search "Anna Haines Louisville" online to see the link to the story.

Fr. Philip has gathered a committee to focus on renovating the building. Located at 768 Eastern Parkway, St. Anne's House is a 4-unit, 1-bedroom apartment complex. The renovated apartments will, in partnership, be leased to Catholic Charities of Louisville's (CCL) Bakhita Empowerment Initiative Program which provides services to labor and sex trafficking victims.

*"Human trafficking can affect anyone. In our program, we have found that when a person lacks housing stability and safety, they are at a higher risk of returning to a trafficking situation purely due to not having access to basic needs. Our program has served 40 participants with short term and long-term housing in 2022, but we continue to require a wait list as our referrals exceed our resources,"* says Amy Nace-DeGonda, Director of CCL's Bakhita Empowerment Initiative. *"Having a house with units dedicated to housing survivors of trafficking will assist us in working long term with those housed at St. Anne's on healing."*

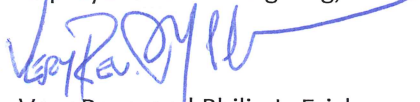
The committee, Chair Dutch Boehnlein and Vice-Chair Laura Kline along with volunteers, have been working diligently for the last two years to put Fr. Philip's vision in motion. During this time, they have:

- Completed all of the necessary demolition (removal of old water and drain pipes, ceilings, drywall, bathrooms, kitchens and old fixtures) at no cost.
- Overseen the OMOS investment of over \$30,000 in new roof, gutters, downspouts and removal of old trees.
- Received Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre's authorization and endorsement of this project.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding and agreed upon lease terms with Catholic Charities.
- Qualified through the Quieter Home Program with the FAA to receive windows, exterior doors and a new air conditioning system.

Now **we need YOU** to get to the finish line. In preparation for the next phase of remodeling, we are seeking \$250,000 for new plumbing, electrical service, heating system, kitchens, bathrooms, and flooring. **This is a "ONE-TIME ASK" fundraiser for renovations, as CCL's rent will pay for ongoing maintenance of the building.**

Enclosed is a donor card; we ask you to prayerfully consider and return as soon as possible. ***Will you help us renovate St. Anne's House to be a safe home for God's children who are survivors of human trafficking?***

In prayer and thanksgiving,

  
Very Reverend Philip L. Erickson  
Pastor

  
Dutch Boehnlein  
Chair of St. Anne's Project

  
Laura Kline  
Vice-Chair of St. Anne's Project

# Make St. Anne's a Home

Create a safe home for women survivors of human trafficking. YOU can be the difference.

**Fundraising Goal - \$250,000**

Fundraising time frame: June - December

## DONOR CARD

\$\_\_\_\_\_ One-Time Gift to St. Anne's House

\$100    \$250    \$500    \$1,000    Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Your email will only be used to keep you updated on our progress.*

## Ways to contribute and be a part of a life-changing project:

Checks are the preferred method, no fees.

Make checks payable to **Our Mother of Sorrows**

Put in memo line: **St. Anne's House**

Addressed envelopes are available in the churches for your convenience.

Place checks in the collection plate or mail to the office at:

747 Harrison Avenue

Louisville, Kentucky 40217

Donate online via ACH, Debit card or credit card



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR LIFE-CHANGING GIFT.**

*Our Mother of Sorrows is a 501(c)3; Federal ID# 61-0444786.  
Individual, corporate and vendor contributions qualify as charitable donations.*

## FOR IN-KIND VENDORS OR CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS

Renovation needs. Check areas you may be able to help with.

- Plumbing
- Electrical
- Framing/Drywall/ Trim Work
- Painting Interior/ Exterior
- Flooring
- Fencing
- Kitchen Cabinets [Donated]
- Landscaping
- Insulation
- New Furnace
- Rework Rear Stairwell Enclosure Wall
- Bathroom Fixtures
- Appliances + Washer/ Dryer
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

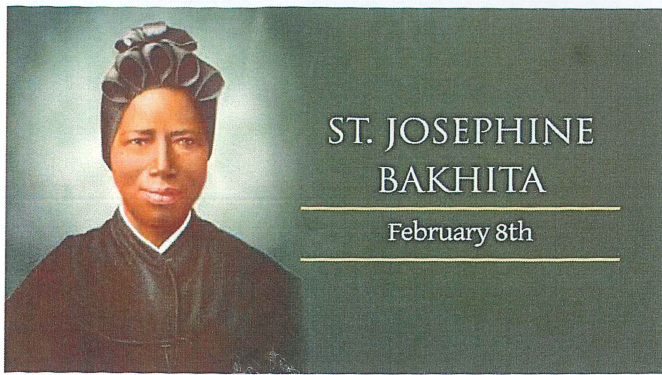
Please fill out the information on the left and we will reach out to you to see how we can work together.

If you have questions or want more details about the project scope, please contact:

Dutch Boehnlein  
502-938-2930  
Dutch@familyrealty.com

In partnership with:





St. Josephine Bakhita is the patron saint of Catholic Charities of Louisville's Bakhita Empowerment Initiative.

Often, we think of saints of long ago, however St. Bakhita was canonized in 2000.

Please read the article below taken from [www.catholicnewsagency.com](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com) to learn more about her journey.

On February 8, the Church commemorates the life of St. Josephine Bakhita, a Canossian Sister who was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Sudan.

Josephine Bakhita was born in 1869, in a small village in the Darfur region of Sudan. She was kidnapped while working in the fields with her family and subsequently sold into slavery. Her captors asked for her name but she was too terrified to remember so they named her "Bakhita," which means "fortunate" in Arabic.

Retrospectively, Bakhita was very fortunate, but the first years of her life do not necessarily attest to it. She was tortured by her various owners who branded her, beat and cut her.

In her biography she notes one particularly terrifying moment when one of her masters cut her 114 times and poured salt in her wounds to ensure that the scars remained. "I felt I was going to die any moment, especially when they rubbed me in with the salt," Bakhita wrote.

She bore her suffering valiantly though she did not know Christ or the redemptive nature of suffering. She also had a certain awe for the world and its creator.

"Seeing the sun, the moon and the stars, I said to myself: 'Who could be the Master of these beautiful things?' And I felt a great desire to see Him, to know Him and to pay Him homage."

After being sold a total of five times, Bakhita was purchased by Callisto Legnani, the Italian consul in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan.

Two years later, he took Bakhita to Italy to work as a nanny for his colleague, Augusto Michieli.

He, in turn, sent Bakhita to accompany his daughter to a school in Venice run by the Canossian Sisters.

Bakhita felt called to learn more about the Church, and was baptized with the name "Josephine Margaret." In the meantime, Michieli wanted to take Josephine and his daughter back to Sudan, but Josephine refused to return.

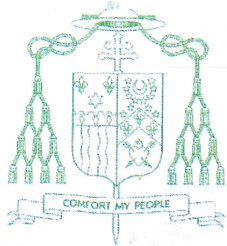
The disagreement escalated and was taken to the Italian courts where it was ruled that Josephine could stay in Italy because she was a free woman. Slavery was not recognized in Italy and it had also been illegal in Sudan since before Josephine had been born.

Josephine remained in Italy and decided to enter Canossians in 1893. She made her profession in 1896 and was sent to Northern Italy, where she dedicated her life to assisting her community and teaching others to love God.

She was known for her smile, gentleness and holiness.

She even went on record saying, "If I were to meet the slave-traders who kidnapped me and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands, for if that did not happen, I would not be a Christian and Religious today."

St. Josephine was beatified in 1992 and canonized shortly after on October 2000 by Pope John Paul II. She is the first person to be canonized from Sudan and is the patron saint of the country.



OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

## ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

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April 25, 2022

Reverend Philip L. Erickson  
Our Mother of Sorrows Parish  
747 Harrison Avenue  
Louisville, KY 40217

Dear Fr. Philip:

Greetings in the Lord! I hope this letter finds you well and at peace! Easter blessings to you.

I am in receipt of the letter that Archbishop Kurtz sent to you dated March 24, 2022. In this letter, Archbishop Kurtz indicated to you that you should await my response to your request to begin the fundraising for the "St. Anne Project", which will help victims of human trafficking and will be located on property owned by Our Mother of Sorrows Parish.

I have become acquainted with the project from the information included in Archbishop Kurtz's letter and am, by way of this letter, granting permission for the fundraising phase to be initiated.

I pray God's blessings upon this important effort and hope for success! With an assurance of my prayers for you and asking your prayers for me, I remain,

Sincerely in the Lord,

Most Reverend Shelton J.  
Fabre Archbishop of Louisville

cc: Robert Cecil, CFO  
Bill Zoeller, Director of Facilities