



Picture the Homeless

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RELIGIOUS LEADERS SUPPORT OCCUPATION OF VACANT PROPERTY BY HOMELESS PEOPLE

"I am aware that there are many who wince at a distinction between property and persons - who hold both sacrosanct. My views are not so rigid. A life is sacred. Property is intended to serve life, and no matter how much we surround it with rights and respect, it has no personal being. It is part of the earth man walks on; it is not man." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

We, the undersigned clergy and religious leaders comprising the spiritual community of New York City, after prayerful consideration of the plight of homeless women, children and men, hereby affirm with compassion and determination that

Whereas, thousands of men, women and children living here in New York City are suffering the injustice, hardship and indignities of being homeless, and

Whereas, there are presently thousands of abandoned and warehoused apartments sitting vacant in our city, and

Whereas, we as religious leaders are united around the commonly held tenets of faith which affirm the moral ideal and requirement of loving our neighbors as a means of loving God, and

Whereas, the municipal authorities of New York City have shown themselves to be both unwilling to meet the needs of the homeless, and to renovate and make available these warehoused apartments for those in need, and

Whereas, the poor and those deprived of a place to live and raise their families look to the clergy for moral leadership, hope and inspiration as a sign of God's justice

We hereby affirm the divine righteousness of homeless people in their occupation of these vacant spaces through direct action in order to renovate them and to create homes for themselves, thereby incarnating the human right to a home.

In the name of the God of Love and Justice, we hereby affix our signatures below:

Name/Title/Affiliation: _____

Please forward to: frank@picturethehomeless.org

Mail to: Rev. Frank Morales, c/o Picture the Homeless, 2427 Morris Avenue, Bronx, New York, 10468