



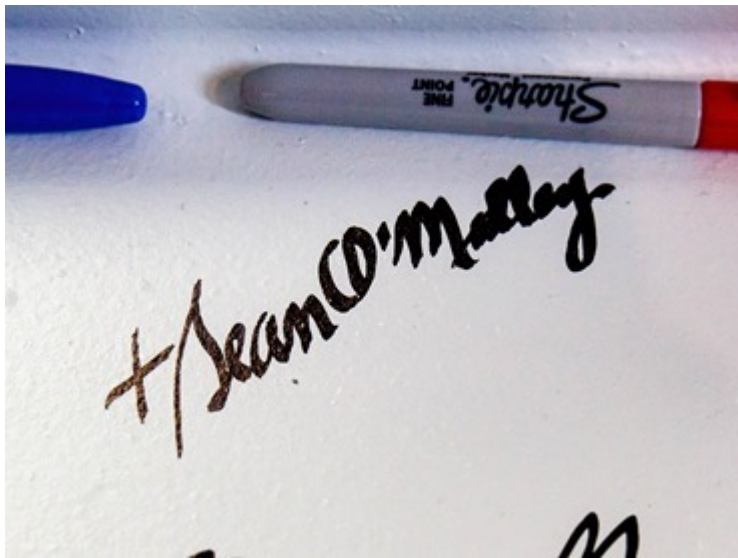
On Tuesday, I was very pleased to join in the groundbreaking ceremony of The Union housing redevelopment on Boylston Street in Boston, which is a collaboration between St. Francis House and the archdiocese's Planning Office for Urban Affairs.

I was very touched to see the response of the community to this event. There were over 150 people present including Gov. Charlie Baker and Mayor Marty Walsh, which certainly underscores the importance of the problem of homelessness in our society.



Because it is a redevelopment rather than the construction of a new building, instead of the traditional groundbreaking shovels, they had us sign a steel beam that will be placed in the walls of the new facility.





St. Francis House provides just a wonderful service to homeless people and now, with this project, they will be able to expand their good works. St. Francis House acquired the old YMCA across the street from their present facility and they will develop 46 units of affordable housing which will include 26 units for people who are homeless or had been homeless. In addition, they have plans to put in a work facility that will provide jobs for homeless people and other facilities.

We are so grateful to Lisa Alberghini, president of the Planning Office and Karen LaFrazia, president of St. Francis House who both worked so hard to make this project a reality. These types of projects are always very difficult because they involve obtaining private and government funding as well as numerous government permits and permissions.

