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## Former St. Kevin's property to become apartments

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Cardinal Sean O'Malley and public officials gathered Tuesday to break ground on the rehabilitation of the former St. Kevin's Parish in Dorchester.

The \$36.7 million redevelopment, led by the Boston Archdiocese' Planning Office for Urban Affairs as well as St. Mary's Center for Women and Children and Holy Family Parish, will offer 80 affordable housing units in Dorchester's Upham's Corner neighborhood.

Construction is expected to commence next month and the project is slated for completion in July 2015. The 102,000-square-foot development will include three multistory buildings, two newly constructed at 35 Bird St. and 530 Columbia Rd., and the reuse of one of the existing buildings at 516 Columbia Rd.

O'Malley said the project will answer a critical need for safe and affordable housing in the city. The former St. Kevin's site will be redeveloped to create affordable housing, 25 percent of which will be for formerly homeless families.

St. Mary's Center will provide on-site supportive services to families transitioning to permanent housing. The remaining 75 percent of the units will be workforce housing to provide affordable apartments for people who serve the community, including teacher's aides, lab technicians, licensed practical nurses, paralegals and restaurant workers.

The development received about \$11 million from the state, the city of Boston, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The remaining \$25.7 million came from private loans with Bank of America as the lead funder.