



St. Anthony Shrine

Recent Blessings, Thanks to You

As we prepare to close out 2025 and celebrate the beginning of 2026, we wanted to share with you some highlights of our recent work. Your support of St. Anthony Shrine not only brings hope and healing to the individuals we serve, but it also helps broaden our reach throughout the Boston community. All of this is made possible by friends and donors like you. We thank you for your prayerful encouragement of our work.



The Franciscan friars of St. Anthony Shrine were honored to be named this year's honoree at the annual **St. Francis House Gala**. Our friars founded St. Francis House on October 4, 1984, as a place of compassion and dignity. We remain deeply grateful for the longstanding partnership between the Shrine and St. Francis House. Together, we share a Franciscan mission of caring for the most vulnerable in the heart of Boston.

On **October 10**, we received the **Faith and Blue Award** from the Boston Police Department for our "dedicated partnership and continuous contributions to the success of our Department and the community."

Ursuline Academy selected St. Anthony Shrine to receive the inaugural **Spirit of St. Angela Community Award**, presented at their annual *Evening for Ursuline Gala* on November 21. The award recognizes those whose lives, work, and daily actions reflect the mission and the courage, kindness, and humility of St. Angela Merici.



Harvard Business School's case study of the Shrine, *"This Old House of Worship: St. Anthony Shrine,"* continues to be taught annually at both Harvard Business School and Boston University.

On **October 30**, **Mary Ann Ponti**, our Director of Outreach and Community Engagement, received the **Frontline Hero Award** at the **Downtown Public Safety Summit**—a gathering of city and state leaders, law enforcement, and community organizations focused on solutions to substance use, homelessness, and public safety. Speakers praised Mary Ann's exceptional leadership and deep community impact.

The **Boston Hub Tables** named Mary Ann as **Chair of the Downtown Hub Table**, a Boston Police Department led network that unites first responders, public health agencies, and community organizations to support individuals at high risk of harm. The BPD commended the Shrine for being “a cornerstone of downtown Boston's social services for decades, serving those experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, and social isolation. *Mary Ann's deep understanding of the Boston service sphere, multidisciplinary creative thinking, and trauma-informed approach make her ideally positioned to chair this critical table.*”

The **Franciscan Food Center** at St. Anthony Shrine continues to serve our brothers and sisters struggling to keep their families fed. We are prepared to assist a greater number of clients through our weekly *Homeless-to-Housing* program.

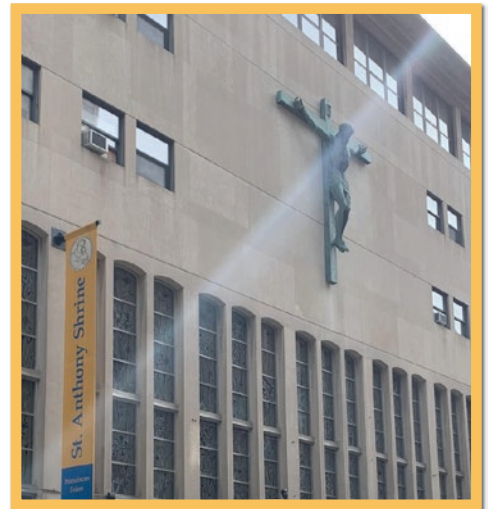


In November, we held our regular community distribution, our annual Thanksgiving distribution, and additional off-site distributions with partner agencies—including Harvest on the Vine, Riverbend, St. Francis House, Suffolk County House of Corrections, The Downtown Boston Alliance, and Youth in Crisis.

We also scheduled an additional community distribution in December to provide another opportunity for families to receive supplemental groceries.

At our home at **100 Arch Street**, we have made significant safety and security improvements. A new emergency generator is now online, a modern camera system has been installed, and we have collaborated with several downtown partners to enhance pedestrian safety on Arch Street.

In the past year, we have welcomed several friars to live and serve in our community at Arch Street: **Fr. Tony Wilson, Br. Bill Fitzgerald, Fr. Brian Smail, and Br. Andrew Stettler**. We also welcomed our new Director of Operations, **John Byrne**, who joins us after ten years at Harvard University, most recently as Manager of Administrative Operations. We are blessed to have them all as part of our Franciscan family.



Thank you for helping make 2025 an outstanding year for St. Anthony Shrine. Here's to many more years of continued service to our community in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.



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