

FROM: The Cathedral of St. John the Divine

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Request for Coverage

**INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS
TO BE HELD AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE**

Cathedral community and clergy gather in response to NYC humanitarian crisis

In support of asylum seekers in New York City, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the Episcopal Diocese of New York, faith leaders from across the city, and members of New York Shelter for All in Need Equally Coalition (NY SANE) invite the local community to observe a peaceful prayer vigil on **Wednesday, October 25, from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM on the West Front Stairs at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th St.) in Manhattan.**

More than 110,000 asylum seekers have come to New York over the last year, fleeing political instability and violence in Venezuela, Afghanistan, West African nations, and many other countries. In response to the humanitarian crisis unfolding for asylum seekers, the Cathedral and its partners in the Diocese will host an interfaith vigil calling on New York's leaders to work towards a just, humane, and inclusive solution. In addition to faith leaders from multiple religious traditions, the vigil will feature music as well as remarks by speakers from African Communities Together and The Interfaith Center of New York.

NY SANE was founded in October by a coalition of interfaith religious leaders and nonprofit organizations in reply to efforts by the Adams Administration to roll back New York City's right to shelter. At a press conference on October 12, religious, social service, labor, and foundation leaders from organizations including the Episcopal Diocese of New York, WIN, The Legal Aid Society, Coalition for the Homeless, and others gathered to affirm their shared commitment to human dignity and uphold the right to shelter as important to a safe and healthy New York.

In a letter to the Diocese, Bishop Matthew Heyd wrote, "Congregations in every region are experiencing this crisis and responding every day. This crisis will continue. The question will be how we respond. We witness to God's presence in the world through our outreach and we participate in God's healing by organizing for justice."

DATE: Wednesday, October 25, 2023

TIME: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**PLACE: The Cathedral of St. John the Divine
1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street)
Manhattan**

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