

For Immediate Release

October 25, 2004

TO: All News Media and Concerned Citizens

FROM: Father Kevin Duggan, Pastor
St. John Vianney Catholic Church

RE: Tent City 4

(Kirkland) As pastor of St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Kirkland, Washington, I have decided to permit the community of Tent City 4 to take up temporary residence on our parish grounds for a period of up to three months once their current stay in the City of Woodinville comes to an end.

I have come to this decision after lengthy prayer, and after consultation with our church's pastoral council, staff and parishioners. I have also engaged in a process of listening to the concerns and viewpoints of Finn Hill residents and members of our local school communities, and have listened to the experiences of other church and civic communities who have previously hosted Tent City communities. My decision is based upon the teaching of Jesus Christ and his summons to care for those in need, and upon principles enshrined in the social teaching of the Catholic Church. These teachings compel me—and the parish community for which I am responsible—to reach out in compassion and hospitality to welcome the community of Tent City 4.

I recognize that tent cities are not a lasting solution to the problem of homelessness. But I do believe that, in the present context especially, they are a constructive and reasonably effective way to address an immediate and even urgent need. Working with civic leaders, with representatives of other churches and faith communities, and with willing citizens of good will, St. John Vianney Parish pledges its best effort to ensure the safety and well-being of our neighbors, our guests, our parishioners and our partners in ministry as we open our gates and our hearts to the community of Tent City 4.

For more information, contact: Greg Magnoni 206.382.4862