



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Listen To Me!” Stories of the Unnoticed St. Anthony Shrine raises public awareness of underrepresented individuals.

BOSTON — “Listen To Me!” sheds light on the true narratives of underrepresented persons and connects them with the people of downtown Boston. The stories of the unhoused, members of the LGBTQ+ community and those struggling with mental health are recorded with consent and anonymized to protect their privacy and safety. To symbolize how these groups and their issues are often ignored, stories are played on speakers throughout Boston Common on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022, 3-6 p.m. to encourage people to stop and take the time to listen to their narratives.

This event aims to raise public awareness for overlooked individuals, as well as convey the message that St. Anthony Shrine is committed to serving these individuals in a safe, calming, confidential and private environment.

“The ‘Listen to Me’ event is a wonderful opportunity for St. Anthony Shrine to help share the stories of some of the groups that we help every day,” said Father Thomas Conway . “In the years we have been working with the homeless population, young people in our LGBTQ+ programs and in our counseling services, we have noticed their stories are not shared, and voices go largely unheard.”

The audio recordings are available online on St. Anthony Shrine’s website for those who wish to listen to the stories in private and read more about the initiative, as well as other St. Anthony Shrine’s projects.

St. Anthony Shrine is inspired by the enduring legacy of St. Francis of Assisi, the friars and the lay people of the Shrine strive to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all people. They serve as instruments of God’s healing through daily celebrations of the Eucharist and the sacrament of reconciliation. The Shrine is eager to serve the people of Boston. As it celebrates the past, it also looks toward the future, confident that the good God and the “Wonder Worker of Padua” might continue to bless the work of the “Church on Arch Street” for many, many years to come.

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Media Contact: Julie Ogden, jogden@stanthonyshrine.org, 617-542-6440 ext. 146