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“Blessing of the Hands” Ceremony for Museum Security Guards with Bishop Dwayne Royster

Religious Event will call on Museum to Provide Sub-Contracted Workers with Paid Sick-Leave

WHAT: Hundreds of campaign supporters will visit the museum wearing support stickers on September 7. Just before museum closing time, activists will converge in front of the museum for the “Blessing of the Hands Ceremony.” The Blessing of the Hands Ceremony will include security guard speakers, as well as live musical performances by John Braxton, Alicia Ortiz, Lee G. and Miguel Williams, live theater by the Student Labor Action Project. The event will culminate when security guards who are leaving work join their supporters after the museum closes at 5 pm. The guards will have their hands anointed with oil in a ceremony performed by an interdenominational clergy group including Bishop Dwayne Royster, Living Water UCC; Reverend Jay Broadnax, Mt. Pisgah AME; Reverend Schannel Steinnagel, Philadelphia Presbytery.

WHEN: Starting Time- 4:15 pm, Ending Time 5:20

WHERE: Philadelphia Museum of Art, 26th St and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway

BACKGROUND: The Philadelphia Officers and Workers Rising (POWR) campaign, a project of Jobs with Justice, seeks to improve wages and benefits for security guards at the Museum of Art and in Philadelphia. The group is encouraging leaders at the museum to raise the wages, benefit and training for guards. The groups first goal is to have the museum grant the guards paid sick-leave. A similar campaign has been victorious recently the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University. The museum guards earn less than the city mandated “living-wage.” The living wage ordinance mandates and company or non-profit receiving more than \$100,000 from the City of Philadelphia should pay workers at least \$10.67/hour and provide benefits such as sick-leave. The Blessing of the Hands Ceremony will highlight that the museum receives \$2.5 million from the city and that sub-contracted guards receive \$10.03/hour or less.

For more information, see: <http://www.unionvoice.org/campaign/PMALaborDay/> or <http://phillyjwj.blogspot.com/>

###END###

Today's Program-

Today we have gathered to sing, and shout and pray that the Philadelphia Museum of Art take some steps improve the wages and benefits of security guards on your property.

Welcome- Thomas Robinson, John Braxton

Song- John Braxton

The Issue- Fabricio Rodriguez

Song (2)- Alicia Ortiz

Sick Day Theater

Song- Miguel Williams

Spoken Word- Lee G

Speaker- Dynita Bryant

Blessing of the Hands Ceremony

Invocation

Anointment

Closing



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Prayer of Blessing the Work of Our Hands

Blessed be the works of your hands,

O Holy One,

Blessed be these hands that have touched life.

Blessed be these hands that have nurtured creativity.

Blessed be these hands that have held pain.

Blessed be these hands that have embraced with passion.

Blessed be these hands that have tended gardens.

Blessed be these hands that have closed in anger.

Blessed be these hands that have planted new seeds.

Blessed be these hands that have harvested ripe fields.

Blessed be these hands that have cleaned, washed,
mopped, scrubbed.

Blessed be these hands that have become knotty with age.

Blessed be these hands that are wrinkled and scarred
from doing justice.

Blessed be these hands that have reached out and
been received.

Blessed be these hands that hold the promise of the
future.

Blessed be the works of your hands,

O Holy One.¹

¹ Prayer by Diann Neu from *Imaging the Word: An Arts and
Lectioary Resource, Volume 1*, 1994.

*Blessed be the
works of your*



Prayers of the People

Left: Show me the suffering of the most miserable;
So I will know my people's plight.

Right: Free me to pray for others;
For you are present in every person.

Left: Help me take responsibility for my own life;
So that I can be free at last.

Right: Grant me courage to serve others;
For in service there is true life.

Left: Give me honesty and patience;
So that I can work with other workers.

All: Bring forth song and celebration;
So that the Spirit will be alive among us.

Let the Spirit flourish and grow;
So that we will never tire of the struggle.

Let us remember those who have died for justice;
For they have given us life.

Help us love even those who hate us;
So we can change the world.

Amen.²

² Prayer of César Chávez, adapted into litany form by
April McGlothlin.