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UNIVERSAL KINSHIP, REDEMPTION, AND THE HEALING POWER OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE ARE KEY MESSAGES OF 2019 FALL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT KEYNOTE

By Holly J. McKenna, Administrative & Communications Assistant, The Council

For more than 30 years, Gregory Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, has been sharing his message on universal kinship and redemption and how the healing power of unconditional love reminds us that no life is less valuable than another.

Boyle brings that message to our 2019 Fall Leadership Summit "Connecting with ALL Kids" Sept. 22-24 in Saratoga Spring as our Monday morning keynote speaker and afterwards will sign limited, complimentary copies of one of his top selling books about compassion.

Homeboy Industries dates its beginnings to 1988 and is now the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. It is a community of kinship in which those seeking to leave the gang life behind can find hope and receive support to redefine their lives.

In essence, Homeboy helps former gang members discover and inhabit their true selves.

Boyle started Homeboy Industries as a Jesuit priest from 1986 to 1992 when Boyle served as pastor of Dolores Mission Church, then the poorest Catholic parish in Los Angeles and the highest concentration of gang activity in the city.

During this time, Boyle witnessed the devastating impact of gang violence on his community during the so-called "decade of death" that peaked at 1,000 gang-related killings in 1992. In the face of law enforcement tactics and criminal justice policies of suppression and mass incarceration as the means to end gang violence, Boyle and his parish and community members adopted what was a radical approach at the time: treat gang members as human beings.

Homeboy Industries employs and trains former gang members in a range of social enterprises, as well as provides critical services to thousands of men and women who walk through its doors every year seeking a better life.

Homeboy Industries services high-risk, former gang-involved men and women with a host of free services and



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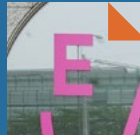
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