



Rev. Gregory J. Boyle, S.J.
Founder and Executive Director
Homeboy Industries

The Rev. Gregory J. Boyle, S.J., is the founder and executive director of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, Calif.

From 1986 to 1992, Father Boyle served as pastor of Dolores Mission Church, then the poorest Catholic parish in Los Angeles, located between two large public housing projects with the highest concentration of gang activity in the city. He witnessed the devastating impact of gang violence on his community during what he has called “the decade of death” that began in the late 1980s. In the face of law enforcement tactics and criminal justice policies of suppression and mass incarceration as the means to end gang violence, Father Boyle and parish and community members adopted what was a radical approach at the time: treat gang members as human beings.

By 1988, they started what would eventually become Homeboy Industries, now the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation, and re-entry program in the world. Homeboy employs and trains former gang members in a range of social enterprises, as well as provides critical services to 15,000 men and women who walk through its doors every year seeking a better life.

Father Boyle is the author of the 2010 *New York Times*-bestseller *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*. He is the subject of Academy Award-winner Freida Lee Mock’s 2012 documentary, *G-Dog*. He has received the California Peace Prize and been inducted into the California Hall of Fame. In 2014, the White House named Father Boyle a Champion of Change. He received the 2016 Humanitarian of the Year Award from the James Beard Foundation, the national culinary-arts organization.

In 2016, Father Boyle was a visiting Practitioner in Residence with Religions and Public Life at Duke University. Earlier this year, he was the Rawson Distinguished Visitor at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public & International Affairs.