CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
WORKING ON THE MARGINS

Dear Bishops,

This November, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) will once again invite the faithful to join in the Church's mission to address the root causes of poverty in our nation. The national date for this year's collection is November 16, 2025, coinciding with the World Day of the Poor as well as, this year, the Jubilee for the Poor. I write to ask for your leadership in participating and promoting this collection in your diocese.

CCHD is the bishops' anti-poverty program. It exists because the bishops of the United States recognized more than fifty years ago that the Church must not only provide charity but also address the structures that keep families in poverty. Today, at a moment when many institutions are having to take a step back from long-term commitments to justice, your support for CCHD demonstrates the Church's steadfastness in standing with those who are most vulnerable.

That commitment is urgently needed now. Across the country, CCHD grantees are responding to the challenging time facing our immigrant sisters and brothers in our communities, accompanying immigrant families who face the threat of separation and loss. More than 75% of our 2025 CCHD grantees are actively engaged in rapid responses, organizing legal support and court accompaniment, advocating for humane policies, and building networks of solidarity that strengthen the Church's witness to human dignity. This work is not abstract; it is saving families, sustaining communities, and keeping hope alive where fear and uncertainty prevail.

The results of CCHD's impact are visible in other places as well. In southeast Chicago, the Alliance of the Southeast (ASE), a coalition of parishes, businesses, and community groups, worked for over three years to prevent the relocation of a toxic scrapyard into their neighborhood. With support from CCHD, they succeeded in protecting the health of families who already suffer from some of the highest asthma rates in the city. ASE also mobilized hundreds of residents to hold landlords accountable for unsafe housing conditions, showing what can happen when communities are empowered to act together for justice.

Thanks to the input you and your brother bishops offered over the past year, CCHD has strengthened its grantmaking, accountability, and communication, making it possible to respond effectively to moments like this. More detail on these efforts is available in the annual report prepared for you ahead of November's Plenary Assembly, which highlights key developments from the past year:

- **Strengthened grantmaking and accountability:** The Subcommittee launched a sustained process to refine oversight mechanisms, strengthen evaluation tools, and develop clearer metrics for assessing the long-term impact of funded initiatives.
- **Financial stability restored:** Following CCHD's transition in late 2024, the program has regained financial stability and is rebuilding reserves, ensuring greater long-term sustainability.
- **Expert consultation and external review:** CCHD initiated a process to evaluate the effectiveness of five decades of CCHD investment and entered exploratory dialogue with the National Catholic Bioethics Center regarding a potential external audit of grantmaking procedures.
- **Renewed communication and mission clarity:** New approaches are being developed to strengthen how CCHD's mission and identity are communicated to bishops, diocesan partners, and the wider Catholic community.

- **Listening to grantees and local partners:** CCHD has deepened its engagement with grantees, diocesan staff, and local partners, both Catholic and secular, to learn from their experiences and strengthen shared efforts to address poverty. Through ongoing dialogue, CCHD is gathering insights on emerging needs, effective community strategies, and opportunities for collaboration.

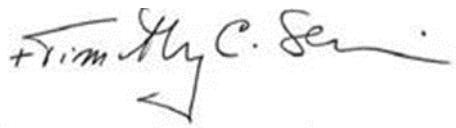
Transformative work like this is possible because of your support. Every diocese that participates in the collection not only strengthens national efforts but also keeps 25% of funds in the diocese to invest directly in local anti-poverty work. Together, these efforts ensure that CCHD continues to be a vital expression of the Church's social mission, one that is rooted in the bishops' commitment to both fidelity to Catholic teaching and to our sisters and brothers on the margins.

I urge you to encourage pastors in your diocese to promote this year's collection at Mass and through parish communications. Resources to support your efforts, including bulletin inserts, pulpit announcements, and social media materials, are available at www.usccb.org/cchd. Our staff, including Alexandra Carroll, director of CCHD, can assist your staff with any questions (202-541-3364 or acarroll@usccb.org).

At a time when communities across the country face immense challenges, CCHD is stepping up, listening, reforming, and renewing its work, because it is our program, the bishops' program, entrusted to carry out the Church's mission of justice and solidarity. Please keep this collection and its vital work in your prayers this November.

With gratitude for your leadership and continued support,

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Timothy C. Senior
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development