



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

November 10/11, 2018

My dear friends in Christ,

In this year's message for the second *World Day of the Poor*, Pope Francis says, "poverty cannot be summed up in a word; it becomes a cry that rises to heaven and reaches God." In the United States, an estimated 43 million people live in poverty. We should ask ourselves: Have we taken time to see our impoverished brothers and sisters and listen to their plea? Or have we ignored them and moved on with our busy lives?

As we examine the issue of poverty and how we can better care for the poor, one tangible way in which we can assist is the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). This collection offers more permanent solutions by funding programs that address the root causes of poverty.

The CCHD national collection will take place in our parishes next weekend, **November 17-18**. This collection is the primary source of funding for the CCHD's anti-poverty and educational programs. Support of this campaign goes a long way in creating communities that are more just and welcoming to those who live trapped in a cycle of poverty. These programs help to provide lasting change in communities.

In addition to making an impact nationally, 25 percent of the CCHD collection remains in our diocese to support local anti-poverty projects. Through your generosity, nearly \$39,000 in local grants were awarded to five programs in our 11-county diocese last year alone. These include the Youth Empowerment Program (YEP!) through Muskegon's Community EnCompass, the Salvation Army's Congregational Partnership program (CPP), the St. Patrick-St. Anthony's Job Seeker's program and Catholic Charities West Michigan's Pregnancy Support and Counseling programs.

The CCHD collection offers hope to those living in poverty in the United States. Thank you for your continued generous support of this important outreach of the Church. Please prayerfully consider giving this year. For more information about the CCHD collection, and the programs it supports, please visit: www.usccb.org/cchd/collection.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids