



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

November 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

The devastating personal and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to affect the people in our communities. These impacts are exacerbated by the health care and income disparities that many of our neighbors face, through no fault of their own. You have the opportunity to help your neighbor through the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) collection. This collection will be taken up in our diocese next weekend, **Nov. 21-22**.

This annual collection helps to provide solutions at the grassroots level; empowering people to identify problems, make decisions, and find ways to improve their lives and neighborhoods. Simply put, the CCHD collection offers hope.

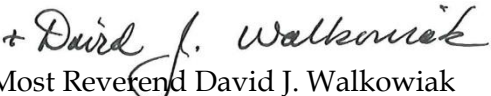
In his most recent encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* ("Brothers All"), Pope Francis says, "A truly human and fraternal society will be capable of ensuring in an efficient and stable way that each of its members is accompanied at every stage of life. Not only by providing for their basic needs, but by enabling them to give the best of themselves... (110)" A practical way we can do this is by supporting the annual CCHD collection.

Our diocese retains 25 percent of this collection to help fund local anti-poverty projects. Locally, organizations including Healthy Homes of West Michigan, Muskegon's Community EnCompass youth program, and Catholic Charities West Michigan's Pregnancy Support and Counseling Services received a grant last year. Emergency assistance, through our pastors, was also made available to individuals who were not eligible to receive governmental assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, more than \$34,000 in grant money was distributed because of your generosity in last year's collection.

Organizations funded by the CCHD adhere to the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church. Your support for this collection makes a difference. Please prayerfully consider giving this year as CCHD celebrates 50 years of "working to break the cycle of poverty by helping low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families, and communities." For more information about the collection and those whom it supports, visit <http://www.usccb.org>.

Thank you for joining me in the work of bringing hope to those living in poverty.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids