



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

November 11/12, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

Each year we have the opportunity to support the national Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) collection. This program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops seeks to educate on domestic poverty issues and supports organizations that are creating local solutions to eradicate poverty. In addition to making an impact nationally, 25 percent of the collection remains in our diocese to support local anti-poverty projects. This year's collection will take place in our parishes during the weekend of **November 18-19**.


Through your generosity, more than \$50,000 was distributed amongst 12 local organizations this past year.

As a universal and culturally diverse church in West Michigan, we welcome newcomers with the joy that the Good News brings. Integrating new families into our communities necessitates comprehensive efforts. The ESL (English as a Second Language) Program at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Wyoming creates a classroom experience to help non-native speakers become more confident in their ability to speak, read, and write English. With funding from the CCHD collection, Holy Name of Jesus Parish is able to lead the way in providing the necessary tools for individuals to integrate into West Michigan and access wider employment opportunities in the local economy.

Your support for this collection funds important work, like the ESL Program, that makes a direct, positive impact upon the lives of those seeking to escape poverty. Your support also helped to fund emergency food assistance at The Bread of Life Pantry at St. Ann- St. Ignatius Parish in Baldwin and Caritas Food Pantry at St. Mary Parish in Custer. These are just a few of the ministries that are working to fight poverty in our own backyard.

Thank you for being a part of this effort! Projects that receive funding must adhere to the teachings of the Catholic 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