



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

November 9/10, 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our diocese will take up the national collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) during the **weekend of Nov. 16/17**. Your support for this collection empowers people to turn their communities into reflections of the Kingdom of God. One of the principles that has made CCHD successful at reaching people on the margins for more than 50 years is its support for community-based solutions rather than top-down programs that do not account for local needs or include local voices.

Together West Michigan is one such community-based group that has received a national CCHD grant. Together West Michigan works to develop citizen leaders and partners with institutions to build relationships of trust across racial, economic, and denominational lines. Through leadership development and education, Together West Michigan helps citizens take action on concrete issues that affect their lives, such as child care, affordable housing, immigrant and refugee well-being and adequate access to mental health resources.

Your support for CCHD helps local groups like Together West Michigan reach and empower people in ways best suited to the communities where they live and work. In addition to making an impact nationally, 25 percent of the collection remains in our diocese to support local anti-poverty projects. Last year, more than \$30,000 stayed in West Michigan to assist people living in poverty.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help the CCHD this year. Projects that receive funding must adhere to the teachings of the Catholic Church and are approved by the local bishop in the diocese where the project operates. If you would like more information about the collection and the people it supports, visit www.usccb.org/cchd.

Thank you for joining us to work on the margins and break the cycle of poverty.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids