



Diocese of Worcester
Office of the Bishop
49 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

November 13, 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

For more than 50 years, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has addressed poverty by attacking its root causes and funding community projects that promote independence as a means of finding a permanent end to poverty. It might surprise you to know that 38.1 million Americans, including one in six children, live below the poverty line¹. Many of these Americans are considered “working poor”— they work but do not make enough money to cover essentials like housing, health care, child care, and food. That’s why the CCHD theme is “Help Those on the Margins.”

This collection is the primary source of funding for CCHD’s anti-poverty grants and education programs. This year, *seventy-five percent of the collection will stay here in our diocese*. Although I could not meet this fall with our parish and community groups which received 19 local grants from the 2019 campaign, it is always inspiring to see how these small seeds grow into fruitful programs to support the dignity of people who find themselves most often on the margin. During this pandemic, the need has increased dramatically in food pantries and emergency assistance programs which apply for support from our local CCHD funds.

In the Dioceses of Yakima and Spokane in central and eastern Washington your generosity to the 2019 CCHD helped a group called “PREPARES en español” to minister to large and vibrant Hispanic communities. By training Spanish-speaking and bilingual volunteers and coordinators, and through developing Spanish-language materials, PREPARES en español offers support groups, family companions, and parent/child learning and play groups that not only assist vulnerable families, but do so in a context of respect for the unique cultural needs of Hispanic families.

Please help the efforts of CCHD to break the cycle of poverty. We are “working on the margins” in Central Massachusetts and across America. **Support CCHD Collection on November 21 & 22 as a response to the Fourth World Day of the Poor on November 15** as called for by our Holy Father, Pope Francis. For more information about CCHD and the scope of poverty in America, please visit www.povertyusa.org.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

¹ Visit povertyusa.org to learn more.

(Please read or print this letter in the parish bulletin on the weekend of November 15 and take the collection for CCHD at all Masses on the weekend of November 22.)