

Justice, Peace and Life

September 2022

"It is not enough to offer someone a sandwich unless it is accompanied by the possibility of learning how to stand on one's own two feet. Charity that leaves the poor person as he is, is not sufficient. True mercy, the mercy God gives to us and teaches us, demands justice, it demands that the poor find the way to be poor no longer." -Pope Francis

Fight Poverty, Defend Human Dignity! Support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Over fifty years ago our U.S. Bishops established the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development** (CCHD) to fund efforts by low income people to address the root cause of their poverty and oppression. CCHD has supported thousands of projects that empower people to improve their working and housing conditions, get better paying jobs, and stand up for their human dignity.

CCHD works to break the cycle of poverty by supporting low-income people in participating in decisions that affect their lives, families and communities.

YOU can be part of this work by generously supporting the special collection for CCHD on **September 18/19**. The funds will provide grants to major projects across the country and smaller local anti-poverty projects right here in our diocese.



City Roots Community Land Trust

Current CCHD Projects in our Diocese

Two amazing grassroots groups in our diocese are currently receiving major CCHD grants. Their proposals were reviewed by Diocese of Rochester clergy, religious and lay people along with CCHD national staff. Then they received Bishop Matano's review and recommendation. Final approval was given by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. It's a rigorous process and they are very deserving of this support!



Alianza Agricola: a farmworker organization whose members train and organize their members to understand and advocate for their workplace and civil rights

City Roots Community Land Trust: a group of low-income people renovating blighted properties in inner city Rochester, creating permanently affordable housing and becoming homeowners



Alianza Agricola

Support for Local Social Change

Your support for CCHD does other great things: 25% of the collection stays in our diocese to support local social change efforts. Past recipients of small local CCHD grants include:

- > a job training program in Rochester for women in addiction recovery;
- > an Ithaca-based group of formerly incarcerated people advocating for criminal justice reform;
- > an immigrant women's group in Wayne County that teaches its members about protecting themselves from unhealthy relationships; and
- > a racially diverse men's group in Elmira focusing on community issues such as domestic violence and voter registration.

“The Church fully supports the right of workers to form unions or other associations to secure their rights to fair wages and working conditions. This is a specific application of the more general right to associate. In the words of Pope John Paul II, “The experience of history teaches that organizations of this type are an indispensable element of social life, especially in modern industrial societies.”

Economic Justice for All

Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy, U. S. Catholic Bishops, 1986

Prayers of the Faithful for Labor Day

We pray for all essential workers who work in the agricultural, manufacturing, and public service sectors. That they are provided safe working conditions and access to affordable healthcare. We pray to the Lord.

We pray for the men and women who have recently lost employment. We pray for their continued perseverance and determination as they continue to seek ways in which to participate in God’s creative work. We pray to the Lord.

We pray for the men and women who own companies, who lead companies, and who make decisions regarding safe work conditions and adequate wages. We pray that these leaders will act in the best interests of their laborers. We pray to the Lord.

We pray for union leaders, national and local, who are responsible for speaking for workers. May they be guided by the grace and wisdom of the Holy Spirit to be servant leaders. We pray to the Lord.



Learn more about Catholic solidarity with workers—Join the **Catholic Labor Network**

A Prayer for Our Changing Climate from Catholic Relief Services



Holy Father, do not let us be indifferent to what is happening around us. Send your Holy Spirit to water our arid hearts with hope. Stoke in us the flame of fraternity. Make us set the world on fire with acts of justice in favor of those who suffer most. Transform our attitudes and make our minds fertile to new ways of living. Enlighten us to propose, support and defend projects and laws that protect the environment. Take our hands to till ways of solidarity, and make our works and words bear fruit. Amen

Learn more about how you can support our sisters and brothers most affected by the changing climate:

crs.org/get-involved/campaigns/climate-change



The ecumenical **Season of Creation**



runs from Sept. 1- Oct. 4, which is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Click [here](#) for the Celebration Guide for use in your home and parish.

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