

## Pope Francis' Message to Popular Movements

Popular movements are grassroots organizations and social movements established around the world by people whose inalienable rights to decent work, decent housing, and fertile land and food are undermined, threatened or denied outright.

*"With your hands you know how to shape the dignity of each person, of families and of society as a whole, with land, housing, work, care, and community.... Seeing you reminds me that we are not condemned to repeat or to build a future based on exclusion and inequality, rejection or indifference; where the culture of privilege is an invisible and insurmountable power; and where being exploited and abused are common methods of survival. No! You know how to proclaim this very well. Thank you."*

## Stand with People on the Margins: Support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development



Just like Pope Francis, we are called to stand with popular movements made up of marginalized people who are changing the systems that deny them their God-given human dignity.

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 causes of their poverty and oppression. CCHD has supported thousands of projects that empower people to improve their working and housing conditions and claim their rights to a decent life.

CCHD works to break the cycle of poverty by supporting these grassroots groups in participating in decisions that affect their lives, families and communities. Learn about some of these amazing groups in the short video at this [link](#).

YOU can be part of this work by generously supporting the special collection for CCHD at Mass on **September 16/17**.

### Wow! Incredible Work led by Low-Income People in Our Diocese that CCHD has Funded:

- ◆ a land trust that renovated blighted properties and empowered homeowners in inner city Rochester
- ◆ an organization of and for refugees that provided English classes, job skills training, and tenants organizing
- ◆ a farmworker group empowering its membership through working to pass workplace protections and
- ◆ a wholesale and retail coffee business providing job skills and a supportive, sober environment for women in recovery from addiction
- ◆ a workers' center led by low-income people which promotes living wages and assists workers who are victims of wage theft and other mistreatment in the workplace

Our donations will provide major grants to projects like these across the country and grants to smaller anti-poverty projects right here in our diocese; 25% of our Diocese of Rochester collection stays local!



### KEEP SPEAKING UP FOR FOOD FOR PEACE

Thank you to all who advocated for funding for the important and life-saving international humanitarian assistance program called Food for Peace, highlighted in the August edition of this newsletter. Food for Peace provides low-income countries with commodities and funding for food and training on effective agricultural practices. This short [video](#) explains the history of Food for Peace and how it has evolved.

We have to keep speaking up to save this funding for millions of people around the globe at risk of hunger.

Click on this [link](#) to urge your member of Congress to sign on to a "Dear Colleague" letter asking to reauthorize and strengthen the Food for Peace program in the 2023 Farm Bill.

With help from a program funded by international assistance, Nery García, center left, installed an irrigation system that uses less water more efficiently, enabling him to sustain his farm even during Honduras' increasingly severe droughts.

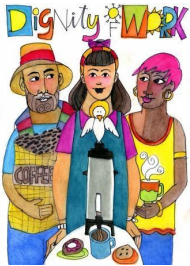


Photo by Oscar Letua/Silverlight for CRS

### FUNDING TO ADDRESS THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Another aid program in need of full funding is the Green Climate Fund, which supports farmers in the Global South to adapt to the effects of climate change on their agricultural techniques.

Click [here](#) to urge Congress to provide robust funding for poverty-reducing international assistance programs in the fiscal year 2024 budget, especially for the Green Climate Fund.



### WORKERS' RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS!

"Unions should continue to be supported in their work that supports healthy, thriving families, especially those who are most in need, and encouraged in maintaining and increasing their focus on performing that critical role."

-Most Reverend Borys Gudziak, Chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, [Statement for Labor Day 2023](#)

"There is no good society without a good union, and there is no good union that isn't reborn every day in the peripheries, that doesn't transform the rejected stones of the economy into corner stones." -Pope Francis, Audience with Delegates from the Confederation of Trade Unions in Italy

*Loving, Working God,*

*On this Labor Day weekend we ask your special blessing on all people who labor in the workplace or at home, in the U.S. and around the world.*

*We especially pray for your blessings on workers who do not have jobs and for those whose inadequate pay does not allow them to live the full life you intend for each of us.*

*Creator God, help us to build a new world in the midst of the old. A world where all workers are valued. A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in. A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill.*

*We pray for the coming of a world where all workers everywhere share in the abundance that you have given us.*

*We ask these things knowing that you give us the courage and strength to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary. Amen.*

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