

Justice, Peace and Life

September 2025

On Sept. 20/21, support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development: Working on the Margins for Social Change



A few years ago, Pope Francis [addressed](#) a global meeting of popular movements, that is, organizations made up of marginalized people whose inalienable rights to decent work, decent housing, and fertile land and food are undermined, threatened or denied outright. Francis called these groups working for social change “social poets” and “collective Samaritans.”

He reminded them that “future of humanity is in great measure in your own hands, through your ability to organize and carry out creative alternatives.” He went on to say, “But such things are unattainable, some will say... [But] you are capable of going beyond the short-sighted self-justifications and human conventions that achieve nothing but continue to justify things as they are.”

Over fifty years ago our U.S. Bishops established the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development** (CCHD) to fund popular movement efforts in the U.S. CCHD supports organizations run by low-income people addressing 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.

YOU can be part of this work by generously supporting the **collection for CCHD at the Masses** on **September 20/21**. The funds will provide grants to major projects across the country and smaller local anti-poverty projects right here in our diocese.

CCHD's Impact: Funded Organizations

Metropolitan Congregations United, St Louis, MO: Facilitated Sacred Conversations on Race (+ACTION) as a way to provide safe and facilitated opportunities to engage congregations in addressing structural racism in the wake of the 2014 shooting of Michael Brown and proceeding unrest.



Opportunity Threads, Morganton, NC: A worker-owned cut-and-sew cooperative that provides just wages, safe working conditions, and employee ownership for immigrant and low-income textile workers.



Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation, Porcupine, SD: A grassroots community development organization that works to improve the quality of life for low-income Native American families on the Pine Ridge Reservation by building sustainable affordable housing as a path to end poverty and build equity and wealth among community members.



Power To Move Beyond Poverty



CATHOLIC
CAMPAIGN FOR
HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT

Please include this prayer at the Masses in your parish on September 20/21: *For the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, for all who work to address poverty in this country, and for our parish community, that we may follow Christ's example of love and solidarity with those who live in poverty, let us pray to the Lord.*

CCHD in Our Diocese!

CCHD-funded groups are very carefully reviewed before they receive grants to support their work. This support is well-deserved. That work is AMAZING!

One of those past CCHD recipients is a Rochester-based social enterprise called **Coffee Connection**, which empowers women in recovery from addiction, trauma, and incarceration. Coffee Connection creates jobs and trains women for sustainable employment as a not-for-profit business selling organically-grown coffee to retail and wholesale customers. And they provide comprehensive support for their participants on the journey toward sustainable recovery.



Support Coffee Connection by purchasing coffee for yourself and/or making your parish or business a wholesale customer. www.ourcoffeeconnection.org

Visit their coffee shop at Market Place Mall, 1 Miracle Mile Drive, Rochester

Other past CCHD grant recipients in our diocese include:

- ♦ a land trust that renovated blighted properties and enabled low income people to become homeowners in inner city Rochester



- ♦ an organization of and for refugees that provided English classes, job skills training, and tenant organizing

- ♦ a farmworker group that empowered its members to advocate for and win legislation for safer and fairer working conditions



Don't Forget: Keep up the Pressure

Keep contacting contact Governor Kathy Hochul to ask her to VETO the bill which would legalize physician-assisted suicide in New York State.

Even if you've already contacted her, go to [this link](#) (again!) to e-mail the governor. But don't stop there. CALL her office after you e-mail at: 1-518-474-8390. Let her staff know that you oppose this terrible policy.

To learn more, go to www.nyscatholic.org



Consider bringing the new documentary "[Life After](#)" on assisted suicide to your parish. Learn more at www.lifeafterfilm.com.

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