

Justice, Peace and Life

September 2026



Power To Move Beyond Poverty

On Sept. 19/20, support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development:

Working on the Margins for Social Change

"When you give to CCHD, you uphold the dignity of the poor by creating a path to good jobs and better, stronger communities. CCHD opens the door to the active participation of those experiencing poverty to convene, identify barriers, research issues, brainstorm solutions, and take action to change problematic structures and systems in their communities and is an essential part of the social mission of the Church in the United States."

*- Bishop Timothy C. Senior of Harrisburg, chair
USCCB Subcommittee on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development*



Spotlight on a CCHD funded group:
BILT, The Buffalo Immigrant Leadership Team, views the 15,000+ immigrants and refugees who have come to Western NY since 2000 as its constituency. BILT's mission is to develop leaders within this immigrant and refugee community and equip them to address issues that are impacting their lives, thereby creating thriving communities where everyone can reach their full potential.

Over fifty years ago our U.S. Bishops established the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development** (CCHD) to fund community organizations in the United States. CCHD supports groups 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.

YOU can be part of this life-changing work by generously supporting the **collection for CCHD at the Masses on September 19/20**. The funds will provide grants to major community organizing projects across the country.



In addition, 25% of the collection stays in our diocese, to support local anti-poverty programs that are engaged in social change work. This year, these local grants are supporting:

- ♦ an organization run by and for formerly incarcerated people to provide them with employment;
- ♦ a free child care center staffed by low-income women serving families in subsidized housing;
- ♦ an organization that engages disadvantaged teens in advocacy to confront poverty and violence in their neighborhoods; and
- ♦ a tenants' rights organization empowering people to ensure decent housing for their households.



CATHOLIC
CAMPAIGN FOR
HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT

Please include this prayer at the Masses in your parish on September 19/20: *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.*

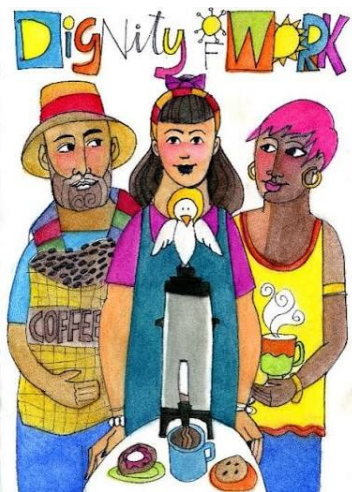
A prayer for Labor Day

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.



2026 Labor Day Statement from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Labor Day is an opportunity to celebrate workers and honor the dignity of work. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of participation in God's creation. This year, we focus on young people and vulnerable communities who face uncertainty in today's economy. Traditional economic indicators tell us the economy is growing, but hiring has slowed, especially for unemployed workers, and unemployment remains high for Black workers. Roughly one-quarter of the labor force are low-wage workers; among them, 72% lack stable and secure jobs¹ and more than half are people of color. More than 70% of Americans believe having children is unaffordable, an increase of 13 points in just the last year.

There is widespread concern that artificial intelligence (AI) will lead to higher unemployment and to fewer jobs that can support a family. Young people have been the most impacted so far and also experience the most anxiety about AI's impact on their work. We must listen to the experiences of workers, families, young people, and communities of color as they struggle to find stability...

The Catholic



Labor Network

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.

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

-Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre
Archbishop of Louisville
Chair of the Committee on
Domestic Justice and Human Development

Justice & Peace Ministry Staff of Catholic Charities:

Monroe: Marcus Ebenhoe 585-546-7220 ext. 6202; Marcus.Ebenhoe@fcscharities.org;

Chemung/Schuyler/Tioga: Kathy Dubel 607-734-9784 ext. 2135; Kathy.Dubel@dor.org

Cayuga/Ontario/Seneca/Yates/Wayne: Frank Capozzi, Jr. 315-789-2235; Frank.Capozzi@dor.org

Tompkins: Laurie Konwinski 607-272-5062 ext. 12; Laurie.Konwinski@dor.org

Diocesan Coordinator of Life Issues: Elizabeth Johnston 585-328-3228 ext. 1278; Elizabeth.Johnston@dor.org