



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

November 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

In his World Day for the Poor address this year, Pope Francis focuses on a passage from the Gospel of Mark, "The poor you will always have with you." (Mk 14:7) The Pope goes on to remind us, "The poor are not people 'outside' our communities, but brothers and sisters whose sufferings we should share, in an effort to alleviate their difficulties and marginalization, restore their lost dignity and ensure their necessary social inclusion." (3)

Each year, we have a unique opportunity to heed this call by contributing to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), the United States Bishops' domestic anti-poverty program. CCHD works to break the cycle of poverty and restore dignity by helping people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families and communities.

This year, the collection will take place in our parishes during the weekend of **November 20-21**. The parish collection is the primary source of funding for CCHD's programs.

In addition to making an impact nationally, 25 percent of the CCHD collection remains in our diocese to support local anti-poverty projects. Through your generosity, almost \$30,000 was made available to programs in West Michigan this past year. Grants were awarded to St. Patrick-St. Anthony's Migrant Ministry program and Catholic Charities West Michigan's Pregnancy Support and Counseling program.

Thank you for your continued generous support of this important outreach of the Church. Projects that receive funding must promote the mission and vision of CCHD while adhering to the teachings of the Catholic Church. Please prayerfully consider giving this year. For more information about the CCHD collection, and the programs it supports, please visit www.usccb.org/cchd/collection.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ David J. Walkowiak
Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids