



## ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

Office of the Archbishop

archbishop@catholicaoc.org

513.263.6612

October 2024

My Dear Friends in Christ,

As we celebrate the eighth World Day of the Poor on November 17, Pope Francis calls our attention to the Book of Sirach. Sir 21:5 *“The prayer of the poor goes from their lips to the ears of God.”*

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), the U.S. bishops’ anti-poverty, gospel justice program, focuses on lifting up the voices of the poor and marginalized and empowering them to take their rightful place at the table of humanity. Pope Francis invites us to make the prayer of the poor our own and pray together with them. As the poor raise up their voices in prayer to God, through our gifts to CCHD we are able to stand in solidarity with them and have their rights and dignity honored.

For Catholics in the United States, the weekend of November 16-17 is our annual collection for CCHD. Through the grants we make to well-vetted organizations, CCHD uniquely empowers those in poverty to identify their own needs and to become their own agents of positive change.

As a result of your generosity from last year’s CCHD Collection, thousands of low-income individuals in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati benefitted from the outreach of our funded organizations. Funded initiatives created an environment for at risk teens to build positive mentorship relationships and participate in leadership opportunities; empowered neighborhoods to create food secure communities; and met the immediate and long-term needs of abused and sexually exploited women who are incarcerated or in treatment for substance abuse. In every instance, CCHD was there to hear their cries, help them find a place at the decision-making tables impacting their lives, and give them a sense of ownership over their communities.

CCHD is a mandatory collection in the archdiocese, which means that every parish is to take it up. We send two-thirds of this collection to the national CCHD offices at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (some of which comes back to fund organizations operating in our archdiocese). The remaining one-third is granted to agencies in our own archdiocese through our local CCHD Committee and Social Action Commission. A small portion supports the U.S. bishops’ Black and Indian Mission Fund, anti-poverty education efforts in our parishes and schools, and administration of these funds. It is our strict policy that organizations that receive CCHD funds must not participate in activities that promote abortion, same-sex marriage, the death penalty, affronts to human life and dignity, or any positions contrary to Church teaching.

Thank you in advance for your donations on CCHD Collection Weekend. You can learn more about CCHD’s work in the Archdiocese at <https://resources.catholicaoc.org/offices/catholic-social-action/task-forces-committees/cchd>.

With gratitude for your attentiveness to the cry of the poor, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr  
Archbishop of Cincinnati

ljh

RADIATE CHRIST