

# Justice, Peace and Life

September 2019

*“Popular movements represent an important social alternative, a cry from the depths, a sign of contradiction, and a hope that ‘anything can change’.” -Pope Francis*

*Preface to a new book entitled The Emergence of Popular Movements*

Support the  
Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

**Fight Poverty. Defend Human Dignity.  
Make Change Happen.**

***Please give generously to CCHD collection on September 14/15 at your parish!***

As Catholics we're wonderful at charity work, providing food, clothing, housing etc. for people in need. This is important, but it's not enough; it doesn't change the conditions that make people poor.

To increase Catholic support for social change, fifty years ago our U.S. Bishops established the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)**. This national collection funds efforts by low income people to organize themselves to address the root cause of their poverty and oppression and to make change happen. In our diocese, the CCHD collection will be taken up on **September 14/15**.

## WORKING ON THE MARGINS

CCHD has supported thousands of projects that empower people to improve their working and housing conditions, get better paying jobs, and stand up for their human dignity.

Central to CCHD is the belief that the people directly affected by unjust systems have the best insight into how to make that change. As the [web site](#) states, “CCHD works to break the cycle of poverty by helping low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families and communities.”

CCHD projects across the country include land trusts that empower low income people to buy affordable houses, community organizations that advocate with local school boards for better education policies, and worker-owned cooperative businesses that provide good jobs.

In our diocese, CCHD has made major national grants to some amazing projects, including a Workers Center that has aided low wage workers to re-coup tens of thousands of dollars stolen from them by their employers.

### **Current CCHD Projects in the Diocese of Rochester**

This year, CCHD is funding two major projects in our Diocese:

**Coffee Connection** A coffee roaster and retailer that trains women in recovery from drug or alcohol addiction to run the business, and then provides paid employment to them. You can buy their organic, Fair Trade, locally roasted coffee at their two coffee shops in Rochester. You can also set up a coffee bean account for your church or business!



### **Roc/ACTS (Rochester Alliance of Communities Transforming Society)**

This interfaith community organization is made up of urban and suburban congregations working together for racial and economic justice. Together they have advocated for reforms to the criminal justice system and increased funding for child care subsidies.

## CCHD and Poverty Awareness

*While supporting low income people to speak and act for themselves, CCHD also educates about poverty in the U.S. and its causes.*

**Take a look at this YouTube video** [Tour Poverty USA](#)

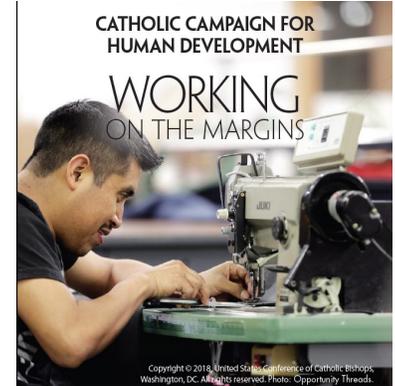
**Try this quiz on poverty facts:** <https://www.povertyusa.org/poverty-quiz>

**Read inspiring stories about people on the margins making change with support from CCHD.**  
[www.povertyusa.org/stories](http://www.povertyusa.org/stories)

### Make Change Happen....

### Support the CCHD Collection on September 14/15

The funds will support major projects across the country. Additionally a portion of the monies collected go back to the 12 counties of our diocese to support smaller local anti-poverty and social change projects.



"We do not get dignity from power or money or culture. We get dignity from work."

"Work is fundamental to the dignity of the person."

"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, 2017

### Labor Day Statement 2019

Unions are a way for workers... to negotiate for just wages, benefits, and working conditions, and to look after the rights of vulnerable workers, including those with injuries and disabilities...

From the Church's perspective, progress must include the expression of solidarity that unions strive to embody, as well as the respect for the priority of labor over capital, which is nothing less than the primacy of human beings over "things."

-Most Reverend Frank J. Dewan  
Chairman, Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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