



"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." - Mt. 25

The Gospel
in action

Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)

"Caring for the poor is not just something nice the Church does; it's a part of who we are and essential to the Church's saving work."

Bishop Jaime Soto, Chairman, CCHD Subcommittee, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

CCHD provides funding to groups whose activities reflect Catholic moral and social teaching on **human life and dignity**. CCHD-funded groups work to change social structures and policies which undermine life and dignity, especially for the poor and powerless.

CCHD is an example of how the Catholic community reaches out to involve and support people who are poor in acting together to improve their lives, overcome injustice and escape poverty. CCHD is a sign of how the Church lives out the call from Scripture and Tradition to give special concern and priority to the **needs of those who are poor and vulnerable**.

Protecting Life And Dignity

The **Workers' Dignity Project** is a worker-led center acting to promote economic justice in the Nashville, TN area. Established in 2010 in response to workplace injustices, the Workers' Dignity Project is a coalition of lay and religious groups that work to prevent wage theft among low-income employees. Workers' Dignity has successfully protected the life and dignity of low-income workers by reclaiming thousands in unpaid wages, collaborating with local students to promote solidarity, and hosting workshops to educate the public about worker rights.

What is the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)?

CCHD is the **domestic anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops**.

CCHD works with Catholic dioceses and their bishops to **award grants** to local, low-income community groups working to address the **causes of poverty**. By helping the poor to participate in the decisions and actions that affect their lives, CCHD **offers a hand up**, not a hand out, helping people and communities overcome injustice, escape poverty and build bridges of solidarity.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Carrying out the mission of Christ to “bring good news to the poor, liberty to captives, new sight to the blind, and to set the downtrodden free” (Luke 4:18)

CCHD also works to **educate Catholics** about poverty and its causes in our nation and to help the non-poor put into practice the Church’s **concern for human life and dignity**, the Gospel command to **care for “the least of these”** (Matthew 25) and the Holy Father’s **call to practice solidarity** in helping people who are poor help themselves to overcome injustice and escape poverty.

“I commend the bishops of the United States for their wisdom and compassion in establishing the [Catholic] Campaign for Human Development . . . and I thank the whole Catholic community for the generous support given to this initiative during all these years.”

- John Paul II, October 5, 1979, Providence of God Church, Chicago, IL

Protecting Life And Dignity

Action in Montgomery (AIM) is an alliance of 30 congregations and organizations in Montgomery County, MD. AIM provides training and development for leaders so that members can speak to the issues that affect their neighborhoods and daily lives. AIM has worked to protect the life and dignity of all people through education, support for the Maryland Dream Bill Campaign and access to affordable senior housing.

Grounded in Our Catholic Faith

- CCHD was created in response to a mandate from the U.S. **Catholic bishops** in 1969 to address the root causes of poverty in the United States.
- CCHD provides funding to groups whose activities are **consistent with Catholic moral and social teaching** and who work to help persons who are poor help themselves.
- More than **683 Catholic priests, 776 Catholic parishes, 18 Catholic Charities agencies, and 51 religious communities** are involved in the work of groups around the country that receive funding from CCHD.
- As the ***Catechism of the Catholic Church*** reminds us, “*The Eucharist commits us to the poor*” (#1397). The Eucharist, celebrated as a community, teaches us about human dignity, calls us to right relationship with God, ourselves and others and sends us on mission to help transform our communities, neighborhoods and world. **The work of CCHD is an example of “Eucharistic” living.**

“To love God and neighbor is not something abstract, but profoundly concrete: it means seeing in every person the face of the Lord to be served, to serve him concretely. And you are, dear brothers and sisters, the face of Jesus.”

-Pope Francis

To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/cchd



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