

# Justice, Peace and Life

September 2020

*"The future of humanity does not lie solely in the hands of great leaders, the great powers and the elites. It is fundamentally in the hands of peoples and in their ability to organize. It is in their hands, which can guide with humility and conviction this process of change. I am with you."* -Pope Francis  
Address at the World Meeting of Popular Movements, Bolivia

Support the  
Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

***Fight Poverty. Defend Human Dignity.  
Stand with the Oppressed.  
Make Social Change Happen.***

***Please give generously to CCHD collection on September 19/20 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.

## WORKING ON THE MARGINS

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 19/20**.

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."

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

At the recommendation of Bishop Matano, the USCCB has recently approved national CCHD grants for **four** organizations in our diocese! They are:

**Alianza Agricola**, a farmworker organization whose members advocate for workplace and civil rights for these essential workers whose labor feeds us



**The Tompkins County Workers Center**, which promotes living wages and assists workers who are victims of wage theft

**City Roots Community Land Trust**, a group of low-income people renovating blighted properties and becoming homeowners in inner city Rochester; and

**Refugees Helping Refugees**, an organization of and for refugees providing English classes, job skills training, and tenants organizing so their members don't get exploited by their landlord



## 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 CCHD YouTube video [The Web of Poverty](#)  
Try this quiz on poverty facts: <https://www.povertyusa.org/poverty-quiz>

Ask To Have this Prayer Said at Mass this Weekend..

### LABOR DAY PRAYER FOR WORKERS

Lord God, Master of the Vineyard,

How wonderful that you have invited us who labor by the sweat of our brow to be workers in the vineyard and assist your work to shape the world around us. As we seek to respond to this call, make us attentive to those who seek work but cannot find it.

Help us stand up for living wages for those who work hard to provide for their families but still have trouble making ends meet.

Protect especially health care workers and other essential workers during this time of pandemic.



Open our eyes to the struggles of those who are trafficked and exploited and help us speak for just wages and safe conditions, the freedom to organize, and time for renewal.

Work was made for humankind and not humankind for work. Let it not be a vehicle for exploitation but a radiant expression of our human dignity.

Give all who labor listening hearts that we may pause from our work to receive your gift of rest.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit that you might work through us to let your justice reign. Amen.

Based on *Prayer for the Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers* Copyright © 2020, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Find more Catholic Labor Day resources [here](#)



### Support for Local Social Change

Your support for CCHD does other great things: 25% of the collection stays in our diocese to support local social change efforts. Past recipients of small local CCHD grants include:

- > an Ithaca-based group of formerly incarcerated people advocating for criminal justice reform;
- > a job training and employment program in Rochester for women in addiction recovery;
- > an immigrant women's group in Wayne County that teaches its members about protecting themselves from unhealthy relationships; and
- > a racially diverse men's group in Elmira focusing on community issues such as domestic violence and voter registration.

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