



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

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November 2009

Dear Friends in Christ,

For nearly 40 years, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), whose collection will be held the weekend of November 21-22, has embodied Catholic social teaching through the pursuit of justice and the upholding of the dignity of the human person. Since 1970, CCHD has funded more than 4,000 small community programs that create affordable housing, obtain fair wages and provide job training, develop new businesses, and seek solutions to local problems.

The CCHD Subcommittee of Bishops and their staff take seriously any findings that groups they fund are not in compliance with Catholic teaching, or are participating in partisan political activity. This has resulted in the denial of funds and the refusal to accept any requests from such organizations. The bishops of Connecticut also have very stringent guidelines for the allocation of funds in our dioceses.

We send 75 percent of the donations to the CCHD national office to support anti-poverty projects nationwide, and keep 25 percent here in our diocese. But because of self-help initiatives already active in Fairfield County, grants from the CCHD to local organizations have exceeded the amount collected for the last several years. These grants have created sustainable jobs, improved neighborhoods, and allowed people to find a way out of poverty.

The CCHD's efforts to help people lift themselves out of poverty are a contemporary and practical example of living the Gospel. Please be as generous as possible in this collection.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Lori
Bishop of Bridgeport