



# DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

*Office of the Bishop*

November, 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,

Over 40 million Americans are living below the poverty line. This number continues to rise, including families who have recently found themselves one health scare or one downsizing away from the poverty line.

For almost 40 years, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has offered a solution to poverty by funding low-income community groups that find lasting solutions to the root causes of poverty. **The weekend of November 19-20, has been dedicated for the annual Catholic Campaign for Human Development national collection.** CCHD supports the poor and low-income in acquiring affordable housing, fair wages, access to health care and vocational training throughout the United States and here in our community.

Our diocese retains 25% of our parish collections to fund initiatives that benefit local communities. Catholic Charities West Michigan (CCWM), the CCHD grant administrator for the diocese, awarded several grants last year. ESL Muskegon (formerly St. Jean Baptiste Catholic Church English as a Second Language program) received a grant to assist them in offering a basic knowledge of English to immigrants and other adults to improve their ability to advocate for themselves and participate in the larger community. Another grant was awarded to the Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism Congregational Partnership Program (CPP) that connects the faith community with individuals and families facing a housing crisis and provides prevention/re-housing resources to prevent homelessness.

The remaining 75% of your contributions go to the CCHD national office to further advance the mission of Catholic social teaching throughout the country by providing programs that empower low-income people to lift themselves from poverty and live in dignity.

Our support of CCHD is vital to solving poverty in the United States. Please join me in praying for those affected by the weak economy, those whose struggles are magnified by it, and those who are working to create solutions to it. Thank you for your generosity.

With good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley  
Bishop of Grand Rapids

For more information, please visit [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections).