



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Archbishop
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

July 2, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As last year drew to a close and most people focused on the coming Christmas holiday, Pope Francis addressed all those blessed with an abundance of this world's goods. He said, *"Our world today is marked by great unrest. Inequality between peoples continues to rise, and many communities are impacted...People want to make their voices heard and express their concerns and fears. They want to make their rightful contribution to their local communities and broader society, and to benefit from the resources and development too often reserved for the few."*

Our Holy Father is highlighting the fact that amid plenty, there still sadly exists poverty. Many of our own cities provide vivid examples of the contrast between those "on the inside" of economic growth and those "left out of the mix." The poor are sliding backwards, often feeling as though the hope for a better day is eluding them. It is hard for us to imagine the challenges that so many of the disadvantaged face right from the start. The cycle of poverty is fueled by poor education, inadequate health care, traumatic family situations, lack of good role models, and limited job opportunities that can provide a living wage.

Yet as the Pope reminds us, the poor don't want to stay in such dire situations; they want to be heard and to make their rightful contribution toward society. As Catholics, we are called to help promote opportunities for all people to live in conditions worthy of their inherent dignity. For nearly half a century, the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development** has been a concrete expression of the Church's solidarity with the poor right here in our country. By funding community organizations working amid pockets of poverty, CCHD has proved to be an effective instrument of human development. Composed primarily of low-income people, these community groups engage the poor to actively participate in organized efforts that address the root causes of poverty. Larger projects are funded with national-level grants, while smaller efforts receive more modest funding at the local level.

Each year the U.S. Catholic bishops sponsor a nationwide CCHD collection in support of the Church's efforts to reduce poverty through these grassroots efforts. In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the annual collection will take place on the weekend of July 8th and 9th. Your contribution to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development will assist in breaking the cycle of poverty. I urge you to support this collection generously and ask God's blessing upon you for your generous response to this year's appeal.

Gratefully and with best wishes in Jesus Christ,

+Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

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