



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT WORKING ON THE MARGINS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our diocese will soon take up the national collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). Your support for this collection brings change to communities across the country and empowers those living in poverty to transform the places they live into reflections of the Kingdom of God. In addition to making an impact nationally, those living in poverty in our own diocese are empowered through the 25% share of our collection that stays here.

We all depend on workers in America's meat processing plants and animal feeding operations who are essential to the food supply chain. Many of them are immigrants facing language barriers that leave them at a disadvantage when they advocate for safe working conditions, just wages, and fair treatment from employers. The Rural Community Workers Alliance (RCWA) in Missouri helps these essential workers by advocating on their behalf for safe working conditions and by promoting gatherings to address racial divisions in the community as a way to help immigrants and nonimmigrants discover similarities and share their experiences.

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed working conditions at a pork processing plant that placed workers at risk of infection due to shoulder-to-shoulder work areas and a lack of protective gear. Workers brought their concerns to RCWA and ultimately filed a lawsuit demanding that the company follow health and safety guidelines established by the federal government. Even before the court ruled on the lawsuit, the company took action to protect workers by installing protective barriers, sanitizing work stations, providing masks, and conducting temperature checks. When you support CCHD, you help groups such as RCWA advocate for the health and safety of the essential workers we all depend upon.

Your support for this collection helps essential employees advocate for safe and healthy workplaces. Please prayerfully consider how you are able to help CCHD this year. If you would like more information about the collection and the people it supports, visit www.usccb.org/cchd.

Thank you for joining us to work on the margins.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmone
Bishop of Charleston