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October 20, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In his message for the Sixth World Day of the Poor, the Holy Father calls us to renew our commitment to working to break the cycle of poverty: “Where the poor are concerned, it is not talk that matters; what matters is rolling up our sleeves and putting our faith into practice through a direct involvement, one that cannot be delegated.” As followers of Christ, our active concern for those on the margins is not a responsibility that can be delegated. Instead, the individual call to amplify the voices that go unheard is uniquely written on each of our hearts.

For more than fifty years, organizations funded by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development lead the call for all of us to stand in solidarity with those who have been marginalized in their communities and to act against injustice. ChiFresh Kitchen, a worker cooperative owned by formerly incarcerated Chicagoans, is one of many CCHD grant recipients. The purpose of ChiFresh is to create economic security and a thriving work environment for its worker-owners. It also seeks to improve the health of its community by offering individually packed meals to schools, community groups and government agencies.

The Archdiocese of Chicago is proud that CCHD has its roots here in Chicago, led by the efforts of Bishop Michael Dempsey during the years he served as pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish on the West Side. By emphasizing empowerment, participation and solidarity, CCHD continues the initiatives of Bishop Dempsey as it works to support resilient communities during continued adversity and struggle. To learn more about CCHD’s impact or to donate online, please visit www.CCHDChicago.org.

Please consider contributing generously to CCHD through the second collection on November 19 and 20. Together, we must continue to sow the seeds of hope amongst those who find themselves on the margins in Chicagoland.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Archbishop of Chicago