

# CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT WORKING ON THE MARGINS

*"Let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth,  
protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish."*

*(Pope Francis, Easter Urbi et Orbi Message, March 31, 2013)*

**Dear Communications Director/Editor,**

As Pope Francis reminds us, "we Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it" (2014 Message for Lent, December 26, 2013).

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) answers this call by giving voice to those on the margins of society who experience the stark realities of poverty. By providing grants to grassroots organizations, CCHD speaks to the dignity of each person, opening doors and providing hope for a more just and peaceful society.

The California Catholic Conference is working with dioceses throughout California to advocate for criminal justice reform and provide spiritual outreach for communities. Through a grant from CCHD, the California Catholic Conference was able to expand its Nightwalk programs in neighborhoods all over California. During Nightwalk—an event led by community leaders, elected officials, and clergy—community members walk the streets of violence-prone neighborhoods together in an effort to promote peace and reconciliation. These walks unify communities and give them a chance to find pathways out of violence together.

Just as it is important to unify communities, it is also important to heal the wounds of individuals affected by crime and violence. The California Catholic Conference also sponsors healing circles that bring both victims of crime and families of the incarcerated together for honest dialogue and healing. By training more leaders to facilitate these meetings, the restorative power of God's compassion and mercy is more widely spread. As Bishop Richard Garcia of the Diocese of Monterey says, "It's really a question of reaching out to everyone with that merciful love of our God."

**Please promote the CCHD Collection in your diocese** with the resources from [www.usccb.org/cchd/collection](http://www.usccb.org/cchd/collection). Remember that 25% of the collection stays in your (arch)diocese for local anti-poverty projects. If you would like more information about the CCHD Collection, please contact Bevin Kennedy at 202-541-3365 or [bkennedy@usccb.org](mailto:bkennedy@usccb.org).

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Jaime Soto  
Bishop of Sacramento, CA  
Chairman, Subcommittee on the  
Catholic Campaign for Human Development

