

# 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 Diocesan Director,**

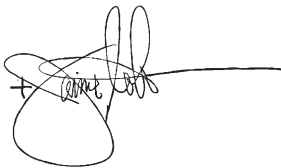
As Pope Francis reminds us, "we Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it" (2014 Message for Lent, December 26, 2013). The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) works with those living on the margins of society to help alleviate their suffering and confront the causes of poverty.

Those who were once incarcerated commonly reoffend when they return to society, often due to lack of support. Through a CCHD national strategic grant, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been working across the country to promote the safe, effective entry of citizens returning into communities and into the workforce. Through St. Vincent de Paul's partnership with local Catholic institutions and the business community, as well as through programs like job training, returning citizens are able to find jobs, stability, and a future.

In an effort to break the cycle of crime and prison reentry, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is also empowering returning citizens to work for the systemic changes needed to promote criminal justice reform. With these new skills, they have been able to advocate for policies that will support fair hiring practices. Through these programs and partnerships, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is shifting systems to ensure the success of returning citizens.

**Reach out to your brothers and sisters on the margins** by encouraging your parishes to use the bulletin announcements, parish appeal, and bulletin inserts. Additional resources are available at [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. Please contact Bevin Kennedy at 202-541-3365 or [bkennedy@usccb.org](mailto:bkennedy@usccb.org) if you need additional materials or have questions. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



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

