



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

July 1, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his first encyclical entitled *Deus caritas est (God is Love)*, our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI reminded us that “the Church is God's family in the world. In this family no one ought to go without the necessities of life.”

More than thirty-six million Americans live below the poverty line—struggling to better their lives and meet the needs of themselves and their families. Our faith challenges us to end the social injustices which contribute to the presence of poverty in our world.

The **Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)** was established to positively impact the lives of the poor in the United States by standing with low-income people, helping them create permanent solutions to poverty in their communities. Real, sustainable change is happening because of the support of ordinary, Catholic people across the country.

CCHD's efforts are supported almost entirely through an annual parish Collection, which will be taken up in the parishes of this Archdiocese on **July 12 - 13, 2008**. Of the donations received, 75% are forwarded to the CCHD national office to support anti-poverty projects across the country. Initiatives benefitting our local communities remain in the Archdiocese and account for the other 25% of funds received. This annual collection also raises consciousness about poverty and the Church's social mission.

CCHD is committed to helping people find permanent solutions to the problem of poverty, but it cannot do this alone. Please join in solidarity with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development to put an end to poverty in our nation through your generous support of this appeal. May God bless you for your generosity.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(For additional information on poverty in the United States, or the programs of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, you may wish to consult the following websites: www.usccb.org/cchd and www.povertyusa.org)

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of **July 5 and July 6**; the collection is taken up the following weekend of **July 12 and 13**. Collection remittance should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103)