



DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

October 26, 2009

*Catholic Campaign for Human Development
Families are struggling. Faith is calling.*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Right now, many American families are struggling to make ends meet. As people are laid off, lose homes to foreclosure, lose health insurance and watch their retirement funds disappear, it may be difficult to think of others in need. However, financial struggles have become even harder for the nearly 40 million Americans who have been living in poverty.

For almost 40 years, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has offered a solution to poverty by funding low-income community groups all over the United States that find lasting solutions to the root causes of poverty. CCHD supports the poor and low-income individuals and families in acquiring affordable housing, fair wages, access to health care and vocational training. The leaders of CCHD-funded groups are low-income community members who want to change their situation for a lifetime.

In Catholic social teaching, we are called to bring glad tidings to the poor...to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind...to let the oppressed go free (Luke 4:18). Our support of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development is vital to solving poverty in the United States and I ask you to give as generously as you are able. Also, please join me in praying for those affected by the weak economy, those whose struggles are magnified by it and those who are working to create solutions to it.

Sincerely and appreciatively yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward K. Braxton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton
Bishop of Belleville

Please read this letter, print a synopsis of it or the suggested bulletin insert below in your bulletin and make appropriate announcements on the weekends of November 14-15 and November 21-22. The collection is to be taken up at all Masses on November 21-22.

Envelopes for this collection should be in your parishioners' regular envelope packets. Please send the proceeds of this collection to the Chancery no later than Friday, January 8, 2010. Please make the check payable to "Catholic Diocese of Belleville" and indicate "CCHD" in the lower left-hand corner of the check. Your cooperation in forwarding the check by the requested date is appreciated.

Suggested Bulletin Insert for November 14-15

Nearly 40 million people in the United States live below the poverty line and 13 million of those are children. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) works to create lasting solutions to the problem of poverty through real community change. Please donate prayerfully and generously to CCHD next weekend to help those in poverty help themselves. Visit www.usccb.org/national collections to learn more.