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October 3, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This month marks the third anniversary of the Holy Father's encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*. As we reflect on all that has occurred over the past few years, let us call to mind the Holy Father's words that ground us in the Lord's love for his people: "Let us seek out others and embrace the world as it is, without fear of pain or a sense of inadequacy, because there we will discover all the goodness that God has planted in human hearts." Our faith is one of action and of active love towards the other, and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is an example of just that. It is within each of us to act with love toward those on the margins of our city and our society right here in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

For more than 50 years, CCHD has funded organizations that lead the call for all of us to stand in solidarity with those who have been marginalized in their communities and who continue to act against injustice. For example, Chicago Coalition to Save our Mental Health Centers works to create community-controlled and sustainably-funded mental health centers in high need areas. For nearly 30 years, it has worked to unite mental health consumers, professionals, faith leaders and community residents to keep Chicago's system of centers open and fully funded in the face of constant budget cuts.

The Archdiocese of Chicago is proud that CCHD has its roots in the efforts of a Chicago priest and bishop, the late Most Reverend 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 CCHDChicago.org.

Please consider contributing generously to CCHD through the second collection on **November 18** and **19**, and thereby continue to sow the seeds of hope amongst those who find themselves on the margins in Chicagoland.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Chicago