

Fact Sheet on *The Review and Renewal of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)*

(For more on the CCHD Review and the plan to carry out the Renewal,
please see the full report at www.usccb.org/cchd/reviewandrenewal.shtml.)

The recent Review and Renewal of CCHD reaffirmed CCHD's Catholic foundations and priority for the poor, responded to concerns about some CCHD funding policies, and made ten commitments to strengthen CCHD as a faithful and effective expression of Catholic teaching and the Gospel mandate to defend the lives and dignity of those who are poor in our nation.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development was established in 1969 by the U. S. Bishops as an expression of the Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church and as a way to help carry out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. CCHD was founded to help poor people help themselves escape poverty and address its causes by investing in their development so they can participate in the decisions that affect their families and communities. CCHD is a unique and essential part of the much broader Catholic commitment to overcome poverty. CCHD pursues "the institutional path . . . of charity, no less excellent and effective than the kind of charity that encounters the neighbor directly. . ." (Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, 7).

Some criticisms of CCHD have focused on particular organizations which are accused of taking action, contrary to CCHD requirements, which conflict with Catholic teaching. CCHD takes these charges very seriously and acts decisively to address them. CCHD deeply regrets that this past year five of 270 groups violated CCHD requirements and were therefore defunded due to such conflicts. CCHD has apologized for the violations of CCHD policies by these groups and for the damage and confusion they have caused.

The bishops who oversee CCHD have undertaken a thorough and his serious review of CCHD to make clear they have heard and are addressing these concerns; are reviewing and strengthening CCHD policies, practices and tools; and are building on Catholic principles and CCHD's experience and strengths to ensure that CCHD is a faithful, effective and accountable work of the Church, carrying out its essential mission in full conformity with Catholic social and moral teaching.

The Review and Renewal of CCHD was accepted and affirmed by the Administrative Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in September 2010. The Report will also be discussed at the Bishops' meeting in Baltimore in November and is a work in progress. CCHD is now engaged in carrying out the Ten Commitments which are at the heart of the Review and Renewal.

The Report has two complementary parts:

- A brief **Executive Summary** that outlines Ten Commitments CCHD is making to reassure bishops, pastors and the Catholic people that CCHD is a faithful, effective and accountable work of the Church; and,
- A **Full Report** which provides a detailed plan of action, making clear that this is neither repackaging "business as usual" nor abandoning CCHD's unique mission to the poor.

This Report is the result of intense effort by a CCHD Work Group (which included Bishops David Zubik, Frank Kane, and Terry Steib, SVD), the Bishops' CCHD Subcommittee, and the USCCB Domestic Justice and Human Development Committee as well as consultation with the USCCB

Pro-Life and Communications Committees and Collections structures, CCHD Diocesan Directors and several supporters and critics of CCHD.

The *Review and Renewal* is guided by a clear understanding and articulation of **CCHD's Foundations**. These begin with its **Gospel Mission** and are deeply rooted in its **Catholic Identity**, especially traditional Catholic principles of *Respect for Human Life and Dignity, Priority for the Poor, Participation, Subsidiarity, Solidarity, and Strengthening Family and Building Community*. CCHD carries out this mission and these principles through the **Pursuit of Justice** by supporting self-help efforts to address root causes of poverty, education for justice, and **Faithful Stewardship** of the human, financial, institutional and moral assets of CCHD.

These goals and foundations have shaped “**Ten Commitments for CCHD's Future**” (See www.usccb.org/cchd). These Commitments are a road map with specific steps to assure bishops, pastors, and the Catholic faithful that CCHD is faithful to the Gospel, its Catholic identity and its mission and is accountable and responsible in the ways it uses Catholic contributions to help break the cycle of poverty. These Ten Commitments will:

- Better ensure that CCHD funds will not be used to support any activity which conflicts with fundamental Catholic moral and social teaching, particularly the protection and promotion of the life and dignity of every person, the sanctity of marriage and family, and caring for and standing with “the least of these” (Mt 25).
- Encourage and give priority to the participation of Catholic parishes and parishioners, pastors, religious and diocesan leaders in the ongoing work of CCHD, especially the engagement of Catholic people, parishes and institutions in activities and groups that carry out the mission and foundations of CCHD.
- Help CCHD be more focused and strategic in carrying out its mission by setting aside a portion of the CCHD collection for Strategic National Grants that reflect CCHD's mission and foundations, address emerging issues impacting low-income communities, and advance the priorities of the Bishops' Conference especially as they impact poor communities (enhancing human life and dignity, strengthening marriage and family, respecting cultural and ethnic diversity and building bridges among diverse groups).
- Develop more specific ethical guidance to help the Bishops carry out the CCHD policy that prohibits funding to groups which are part of coalitions which act in conflict with fundamental Catholic moral and social teaching. Establish new structures, including ongoing consultation with moral theologians and a CCHD Review Board, to help the Bishops address moral issues involving organizational relationships and coalitions.
- Initiate broader discussion of the moral and human costs of pervasive poverty in our nation, which apply Catholic teaching, especially *Deus Caritas Est* and *Caritas in Veritate*.
- Renew and reaffirm our shared commitment as pastors and disciples of Jesus and as a Catholic community of faith to support CCHD's biblical mission, Catholic principles, and essential work to help break the cycle of poverty.

At this time of great economic suffering, it is more important than ever for the Church in the United States through the Catholic Campaign for Human Development to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ “to bring good news to the poor, liberty to captives, new sight to the blind and to set the downtrodden free” (Lk 4:18).