



Catholic Campaign for Human Development

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
3211 Fourth St. NE
Washington, DC 20017
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November 1, 2022

Dear Friends,

It is with great honor and gratitude that I share with you the Catholic Campaign for Human Development's (CCHD) report for the *2021-2024 Synod: For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission*. Submitted to USCCB in June 2022 as part of the "Region XVI" contributions, this report is the culmination of a listening process that took place from March to May 2022 with our over 12,000 current and former funded groups, diocesan coordinators and local committees, current and former interns, and lay Catholics involved in CCHD's work. The unique voices and perspectives heard in this process provide a snapshot into the realities many communities are facing and provide some important insights into how CCHD and the Church at large can better walk alongside our most marginalized brothers and sisters.

I invite you to prayerfully read and reflect on CCHD's Synod report, *Walking in Solidarity with those on the Margins*, as a living testament to the ongoing work of CCHD and those community organizations we support to transform our communities into places where all can thrive. In a special way, this report serves as a way to amplify the voices of those most impacted by systemic poverty and provide an insight into the important work of CCHD as well as the work still left to be done by all those in the Church to truly stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters experiencing poverty.

We at CCHD would like to express our deepest gratitude to all those who took the time to share their feedback with us. Your candid, heartfelt, and vulnerable insights have touched us all and revealed the Holy Spirit at work in our communities and parishes. Please know that CCHD holds with great responsibility the sentiments and recommendations shared with us.

As such, we know the process does not end here and we look forward to the next step in the process to create the listening Church we seek. Pope Francis has invited us to continue this work to root synodality in the heart of our lives as disciples throughout the remainder of the newly-extended Synod on Synodality. CCHD's mission has always been to go to the periphery and spend significant time listening and discernment with those whose voices have been muted. We at CCHD want to be sure that voices that are often ignored or deliberately quieted are amplified in this effort and continue to be heard.

I hope this report will be the first step in an ongoing process of listening, discernment, and accompaniment as we seek to live out the mission of Jesus Christ "to bring good news to the poor ... release to captives ... sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free" (Luke 4:18). In the coming weeks, we will be in touch with how you can help us to discern our next steps in this work of synodality to walk in solidarity with our brothers and sisters on the margins.

With your help, CCHD continues to assist those who struggle and share the Good News at the same time. We can indeed celebrate a proud 50-plus years of existence and have a firm foundation to approach an uncertain future. I thank God daily for your dedication, your commitment, and your tireless witness on behalf of the poor.

In hope and solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ralph McCloud', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ralph McCloud
Director
Catholic Campaign for Human Development