



United States  
Conference of  
Catholic Bishops

Catholic Campaign for  
Human Development

## Seminary Engagement Program Pastoral Placements with CCHD



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Secretariat of  
Justice and Peace

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), the domestic anti-poverty program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), has been working for over 50 years to empower new mothers, immigrants, the elderly, and families to together address the root causes of poverty in their communities. In a desire to respond faithfully to needs present among us, CCHD, in collaboration with the USCCB Secretariat of Justice and Peace, is offering pastoral placements for seminarians to engage with the work of integral human development happening in parishes and dioceses around the country, while deepening their human, spiritual, and pastoral formation. As the *Program for Priestly Formation* directs, CCHD offers an opportunity for seminarians to have “sustained contact with those who are privileged in God’s eyes—the poor, the marginalized, the sick, and the suffering” [and to] “become aware of the social contexts and structures.” (PPF6 no. 370k)

### Through their placements, seminarians will:

- Gain pastoral ministry experience accompanying persons experiencing poverty in the local Church;
- Develop a deeper understanding of the needs of their ecclesial entity and the wider community, including cyclical factors around those needs;
- Understand the work of CCHD and other poverty-ending projects as a resource for priestly ministry;
- Have experiences with diverse, multi-lingual communities; and
- Make connections between the sacramental life and social mission of the Catholic Church.

### Logistics include:

- Arrangements with mentored apostolic placements, often within parishes or with diocesan staff;
- Opportunities for orientation with USCCB staff, and ongoing support for the program;
- Placements during the academic year or over academic breaks (e.g. summer, winter);
- Time commitments vary based on the needs or requirements of the seminarian or seminary;
- Placements and immersions are also available for the propaedeutic and vocational synthesis stages;
- Placement in a seminarian’s home diocese or another appropriate diocese; and
- Stipends may be available on a case-by-case basis, for associated costs.



*“Exposure to this work of empowerment and solidarity made the mission of the Church come alive in an entirely new way and was a transformative experience that has had a lasting impact for me as a priest. I’m thrilled that CCHD is developing a focused program to the formation of future priests— because it is precisely these priests who will complement not only be able to identify needs in their local communities but mobilize and connect communities and resources to improve the lives of people created in the image of God.”*

– Rev. Desmond Drummer, Archdiocese of Atlanta, Consultant to the Subcommittee on CCHD

Explore the opportunity for a placement with CCHD in your diocese. Fill out the interest form at <http://bit.ly/cchd-placement> or contact [Emily Schumacher-Novak](#).

