

Pope Francis' [Message](#) to Popular Movements*

*Popular movements are grassroots organizations and social movements established around the world by people whose inalienable rights to decent work, decent housing, and fertile land and food are undermined, threatened or denied outright.

*"We also experience resistance to the changes we need and long for, many forms of resistance that run deep, that are rooted beyond our strength and decisions. They are what the Social Teaching of the Church calls **structures of sin**; these too we are called to change, and we cannot overlook them in the moment of thinking of how to act. Personal change is necessary, but it is also indispensable to adjust our socio-economic models so that they have a human face, because many models have lost it. And thinking about these situations, **I make a pest of myself with my questions**. And I go on asking. And I ask everyone in the name of God."* -Pope Francis,

[MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF THE FOURTH WORLD MEETING OF POPULAR MOVEMENTS](#)

Be a pest:

Support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development Second Collection on Sept. 14/15



Just like Pope Francis, we are called to stand with popular movements made up of marginalized people who are changing the systems that deny them their God-given human dignity.

Be like Pope Francis: make a pest of yourself.

Ask the hard questions. **We spend a lot of time and effort distributing food to people in need;**

Why don't we try as hard to get them out of poverty?

Why is OK that so many people live in slum housing?

Would we want to work at a job (or maybe more than one) and still not be able to make ends meet?

Over fifty years ago our U.S. Bishops established the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)** to fund efforts by low-income people to address the root causes of their poverty and oppression. CCHD has supported thousands of projects that empower people to improve their working and housing conditions and claim their rights to a decent life.

You can be part of this life-affirming work that helps make real social change by giving generously to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development during the second collection at Mass on **September 14 & 15**. To give online, check your parish web site donation page, and find CCHD in "Second Collections".

**"If we love others with charity,
then first of all we are just towards them."**

- Pope Benedict,

in his encyclical [CARITAS IN VERITATE](#)





NEW YORK STATE
CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

CCHD in Our Diocese

CCHD-funded groups are very carefully reviewed before they receive grants to support their work.

That work is AMAZING. In our Diocese alone, CCHD has funded:

- ♦ a land trust that renovated blighted properties and enabled low income people to become homeowners in inner city Rochester
- ♦ an organization of and for refugees that provided English classes, job skills training, and tenants organizing
- ♦ a farmworker group that empowered its members to advocate for and win legislation for fairer working conditions
- ♦ a wholesale and retail coffee business providing job skills for women in recovery from addiction
- ♦ a workers' center which promotes living wages and assists workers who are victims of wage theft



Proposal 1: A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

Below is a **statement** from Cardinal Dolan, and all the NYS Catholic bishops and auxiliary and emeritus Bishops:

On November 5, faithful citizens throughout the nation will have the opportunity once again to exercise their sacred right to vote.... Importantly, in New York, like several other states, there is... a critical referendum on the ballot.

Educating oneself will be especially important in the case of Proposal 1, sometimes referred to as the "Equal Rights Amendment." The title suggests a noble cause, as all children of God should be treated equally under the law. However, this proposed amendment to the state Constitution is broadly written and could have dangerous consequences if enacted, which is why we oppose it and urge you to vote no. The measure would, effectively, permanently legalize abortion without restriction and up until the moment of birth in New York. Aside from being redundant in a state that already has stripped away all abortion limitations, the amendment would render impossible any change to the law if the hearts and minds of New Yorkers were ever to shift toward protecting the child in the womb.

The amendment's sweeping language and inclusion of "age" as a protected class could also lead to parents' rights being stripped away. Courts could decide that parents have no authority over their minor children on important matters and permit children to make destructive and permanent decisions on their own which they could well live to regret, including but not limited to so-called "gender affirming" treatments and surgeries. The relationship between parents and their children is sacred. Parents must be able to support and guide their children in accord with the natural law, without interference from the government or courts, which would be reaching beyond their competency.

Proposal 1 is a wolf in sheep's clothing that could lead to darkness for many New York families. This amendment disregards the lives of unborn and struggling children in the name of political agendas. It could have dangerous consequences for these children and their parents. As they look to make their voices heard in the public square, faithful Catholics should consider these consequences and vote no. Likewise, they should thoughtfully vote their informed conscience up and down the ballot so that we might usher in change for good.



Justice & Peace Ministry Staff of Catholic Charities:

Monroe: Marcus Ebenhoe 585-546-7220 ext. 6202; Marcus.Ebenhoe@fcscharities.org;

Chemung/Schuyler/Tioga: Kathy Dubel 607-734-9784 ext. 2135; Kathy.Dubel@dor.org

Cayuga/Ontario/Seneca/Yates/Wayne: Robert Vona 315-789-2235 ext. 112; Robert.Vona@dor.org

Tompkins: Laurie Konwinski 607-272-5062 ext. 12; Laurie.Konwinski@dor.org

Diocesan Coordinator of Life Issues: Elizabeth Johnston 585-328-3228 ext. 1278; Elizabeth.Johnston@dor.org