

Diocese of Honolulu • Office of the Bishop • www.catholichawaii.org
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November 4, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Matthew 25:37-41 "Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?" And the King will say to them in reply, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me...but Amen, I say to you, what you did not to for one of these least ones, you did not do for me."

As we celebrate the recent canonization of St. Marianne Cope during this Year of Faith, these words from the Gospel call us all to recognize and respond to Jesus through compassionate service with the vulnerable. This is why I am writing this letter to you today. On Sunday November 18, all the parishes in the Diocese of Honolulu will take up a second collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD).

CCHD was founded as a domestic anti-poverty program in 1970 by the U.S. Catholic Bishops, because they realized that existing charitable services were not creating the changes needed to keep people out of poverty. CCHD's motto is "Fight Poverty, Defend Human Dignity." CCHD funds community and economic development programs across the United States that help poor and marginalized people join together to make decisions, seek solutions to local problems, and find ways to improve their lives and communities in alignment with Catholic Social Teaching. CCHD funds self-help community programs based on defending human dignity.

CCHD also provides educational opportunities for Catholics to learn about poverty, interact with those affected by it, and reflect on our faith response to it. As such, CCHD is a vital partner in the efforts of our Diocese to implement our Roadmap *Witness to Jesus* and to follow in the footsteps of Saints Marianne Cope and Damien de Veuster of Moloka'i.

I encourage you all to give generously to this CCHD collection as a very real way to put into action and live the Gospel words "**whatever you do to the least of these, you do to me.**"

May we continue, with Saints Marianne and Damien, to give faithful witness to Jesus!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Silva". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Most Reverend Larry Silva
Bishop of Honolulu