



DIOCESE OF PORTLAND
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

October 30, 2017

My dear Brother Priests,

With my brother bishops, I join in observing the first annual *World Day of the Poor* on November 19, 2017. Our Holy Father has designated the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time as a day to “encourage believers to react against a culture of discard and waste, and to embrace the culture of encounter.” The theme for this year’s inaugural observance is “Let us love, not with words but with deeds” (1 Jn 3:18).

In the United States, more than 46 million people are living in poverty. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is the USCCB’s anti-poverty program to help the most vulnerable among us find hope and a way to a more secure life. Support offered through this collection reaches those living on the margins and gives them a hand up, not a hand out. The national collection coincides with the World Day of the Poor.

Two national resources have been created to assist in observing this day:

Catholic Relief Services has resources for prayer and liturgy (in both English and Spanish) which can be found here:

[https://www.crs.org/sites/default/files/usops-resources/world day of the poor prayer and liturgy resources bilingual 0.pdf](https://www.crs.org/sites/default/files/usops-resources/world%20day%20of%20the%20poor%20prayer%20and%20liturgy%20resources%20bilingual%200.pdf)

The USCCB published a Pastoral Aid for the 33rd Sunday which includes Reflections with questions and answers, bulletin inserts and announcements, and parish activity suggestions. It can be found here: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/homiletics/upload/world-day-of-poor-2017-pastoral-aid.pdf>

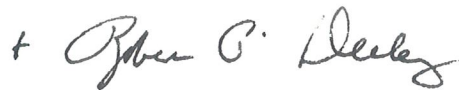
Please help our diocesan church express its solidarity with the poor by taking part in the *World Day of the Poor* through the following actions:

1. Include a Prayer and or Prayers of the Faithful for the Poor that weekend.

2. Include a bulletin insert about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development that week. <http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/collection/upload/cchd-2017-bulletin-bilingual.pdf>
3. Encourage your parishioners to re-commit to practicing the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy. Catholic Charities Maine is pleased to announce the publication of its soon-to-be distributed new *Parish Social Ministry Directory*, which lists over 300 ministries in our Diocese. Now, parishioners will have easy access to see and participate in all the good works that serve the common good in our State every day.

As always, thank you for all the work you do.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert P. Deeley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Robert P. Deeley, J.C.D.
Bishop of Portland