



*(Photo Courtesy of the Catholic Review)*

## **Rev. Msgr. William F. Burke**

We would like at this time to remember and honor the legacy of Rev. Msgr. Bill Burke. Fr. Burke died on March 3, 2023 shortly after the Archdiocesan Social Ministry Convocation last year and is sorely missed by all who knew him. He was the Archdiocese of Baltimore's first director of the Baltimore Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). "CCHD is the domestic anti-poverty program created (by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops) to help address poverty's root causes and invest in local programs that empower low-income people, families, and communities. Programs funded by CCHD support self-sufficiency and self-determination for people who are working to bring permanent and positive change to their communities." (*Guide for CCHD Grant Applicants*). CCHD is also charged with offering

educational programs on Catholic social teaching, poverty, and injustice. Msgr. Burke helped to start the first Archdiocese of Baltimore's social ministry convocation 45 years ago as part of that mission.

Fr. Burke's work with CCHD spanned almost 50 years and he was seen by many as "the 'conscience of the diocese' on matters of social justice" (*Msgr. Rich Bozzelli, 2023, The Catholic Review*) Many priests in the diocese have mentioned him as a mentor and guide who saw his work with issues such as homelessness, racial injustice, lack of affordable housing, unemployment, environmental justice and many more as intrinsic to his ministry as a priest and pastor.

We are humbled by his work that has fueled so many gains in justice and service throughout the archdiocese and larger community. We honor him as a model of true service to others, hope to continue his work by the way we lead our own lives and call others to ministry, and will try to imitate his passion for following selflessly in the footsteps of Jesus, who he loved so dearly.

The Baltimore CCHD Committee 2024