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OFFICE OF CATHOLIC
CHARITIES & SOCIAL
CONCERNS

To: Pastors, Parochial Vicars, Administrators, Deacons and Parish Staff
From: Intercultural Committee on Integration, Access and Mission
Re: **Labor Day**
Date: September 4, 2023

"There is no worse material poverty than one that does not allow for earning one's bread and deprives one of the dignity of work. Youth unemployment, informality, and the lack of labor rights are not inevitable; they are the result of a previous social option, of an economic system that puts profit above man; if the profit is economic, to put it above humanity or above man, is the effect of a disposable culture that considers the human being in himself as a consumer good, which can be used and then discarded."

Pope Francis, *Message for the World Day of Peace* (October 28, 2014)

Labor Day is the annual celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers.¹ In Catholic tradition, work is more than making a living, it is a form of continued participation in God's creative action, and because of this, human labor has an inherent dignity.

Each year, the USCCB invites us to reflect on the persistence of low wages and inequality in our workplaces. The Intercultural Committee on Integration, Access, and Mission (ICAIM) invites you to celebrate Labor Day through **prayer, reflection, learning and action** to ensure everyone is able to fully participate in God's creative action through work.

Intercultural Committee on Integration, Access and Mission
Deacon Casey Walker, Chair

¹ History of Labor Day, U.S. Dept. of Labor; <https://www.dol.gov/general/laborday/history>