



November 21, 2023

Guidance Regarding CUSH Affiliation and Support

Dear Father Roman, Father Carlos, and the deacons and staff of Saint Mark and Saint Mary parishes:

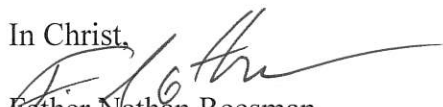
The Archdiocesan Offices continue to receive questions and concerns about support for, and affiliation with, the community organization Congregations United to Serve Humanity (CUSH) based in Kenosha, Wisconsin. With this letter, I am providing guidance and clarity in response to the questions we have received, as well as directives from Archbishop Jerome ListECKI for our institutions concerning support and involvement in CUSH or other community-activist organizations.

Until recently the Archdiocese of Milwaukee had approved financial support in the form of national grants from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) given to CUSH as a means of supporting their efforts for community justice outreach. Earlier this year, Archbishop ListECKI made the decision to end approvals for these grants for CUSH, and officially withdrew any Archdiocesan endorsement of the organization. These steps were taken because of a clear divergence by CUSH and its leaders from established Catholic teachings on a variety of social and ethical issues. This divergence prevents the Archdiocese from partnering with the organization.

The Catholic Church recognizes a broad range of suitable, political avenues that advance the cause of community justice in a manner that faithful Catholics can legitimately support as individual believers. However, it is not appropriate for an entire Archdiocese, or for entire parishes which encompass thousands of individuals, to be officially aligned with organizations that promote specific activist policies that are contrary to the tenets of our faith. Such alignment can cause confusion among faithful Catholics.

For these reasons none of our parishes, clergy, parish leadership, and staff as official, public representatives of the Catholic Church, can support, or publicly be affiliated with CUSH. Individual believers need to evaluate their connections with this organization in accord with the dictates of a personal, well-formed conscience. We stand as always with the worthy cause of justice, but we will not do so by means of alliances that are incompatible with our teachings or with our communal, public nature as a Church.

In Christ,


Father Nathan Reesman
Vicar for Clergy
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

OFFICE OF THE VICAR FOR CLERGY

3501 South Lake Drive | P.O. Box 070912 | Milwaukee, WI 53207
PHONE: (414) 769-3484 | EMAIL: clergy@archmil.org | www.archmil.org