



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3610

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Prot. N. 12300/20

October 15, 2020

Dear Ms. Miller,

As the official representative of His Holiness Pope Francis in the United States of America, it is my privilege to convey to you as Director of the Hilton Humanitarian Prize the following Message from the Holy See on the occasion of the awarding of the 2020 Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize to the organization *Homeboy Industries*:

His Holiness Pope Francis was pleased to learn that the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation has announced Homeboy Industries, a community-led organization based in Los Angeles, California, as Recipient of the 2020 Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize. The Holy Father willingly associates himself with this recognition of Homeboy Industries' generous work in favor of the rights and dignity of every person, as well as the Organization's commitment to ensure the opportunities for formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated men and women to redirect their lives and become contributing members of society.

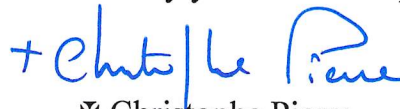
The reality of gang violence continues to be a serious moral challenge in our time. While law enforcement tactics of suppression and criminal justice policies of mass incarceration are still the prevailing means to address gang violence, there is need for a different approach, one that addresses concretely the destructive absence of hope that remains at the root of this tragic reality. As members of the human family, we must be united in our advocacy for these systematically marginalized brothers and sisters who are often farthest from us, forgotten and in need of understanding, consolation and assistance. Christian humanitarian endeavors that seek to create space for these individuals to heal and invest in their future can effectively empower them to become agents of healing themselves, and in turn make a positive impact in their families and communities.

The Holy Father is grateful for the hope, training services and support that organizations such as Homeboy Industries are providing to curb gang violence, to break the cycle of generational trauma in vulnerable populations, and to create a community of kinship and healing in many parts of the world.

To the Recipient and to all whose work is honored on this joyful occasion, His Holiness cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of peace and joy in the Lord.

To these sentiments, I would like to add my own heartfelt wishes on this happy occasion, and assuring you of my prayers, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,



✠ Christophe Pierre

Apostolic Nuncio