



ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

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October 1, 2007

Mr. John Chidsey
Chief Executive Officer
Burger King Holdings, Inc.
5505 Blue Lagoon Drive
Miami, FL 33126

Re: Request from Bishops of Florida Urging Cooperation with CIW

Dear Mr. Chidsey,

The Catholic Church has been actively involved in working for fair wages and humane working conditions for farmworkers in Florida for over thirty years. On behalf of the bishops of Florida, I ask that you examine the process by which Burger King obtains the tomatoes used by your organization, a leader in the fast food industry.

Growers and shippers, increasingly pressed to sell at lower prices, have kept workers' wages stagnant as their profits have been reduced to meet the demands of buyers. Workers who pick the food for our tables are sometimes not able to buy food for their own tables.

We are encouraged by the recent actions of Yum Brands, Inc. to expand their agreement for Taco Bell with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to include all the restaurants under their corporate control as well as the recent CIW agreement with McDonald's. In keeping with the dignity of the human person, the right to adequate pay for the necessities of life and the right of workers to organize and bargain are tenets of Catholic Social Teaching embraced in these agreements.

We urge you to work with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and join those in the fast food community who have acknowledged the need for justice and fairness for those who provide the manual labor in the fields.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Archbishop of Miami

cc: Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito, JCL, Diocese of Palm Beach, ***Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ***, Diocese of Pensacola/Tallahassee, ***Bishop Robert N. Lynch***, Diocese of St. Petersburg, ***Bishop Victor Galeone***, Diocese of St. Augustine, ***Bishop Thomas G. Wenski***, Diocese of Orlando, ***Bishop Frank J. Dewane***, Diocese of Venice, ***Auxiliary Bishop Felipe J. Estévez***, Archdiocese of Miami, ***Auxiliary Bishop John G. Noonan***, Archdiocese of Miami