



ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

Office of the Archbishop

March 12, 2018

Dear sisters and brothers of CIW

*"It is true in the midst of darkness,
something new always springs to life and sooner or later produces fruit"*

Evangelii Gaudium.

These words of Pope Francis remind us that God is with those who struggle for justice and that "no generous effort is meaningless" and "no painful endurance is wasted". The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) has struggled and indeed produced much needed fruit, in its long history. I want to encourage the members of the CIW, now as you march again together in New York.

This week you walk in the city that never sleeps and yet never tires of welcoming the stranger, the weary and the oppressed. All of us, as consumers, are called to walk with you; to become aware of the injustices in how our food reaches our table and to assume the important role we must play in the transformation of our society.

The CIW is a light amidst the darkness of injustice. The Fair Food program you have fought for, has indeed made a difference in the lives of those who toil the fields to feed America. In your persistence to engage companies in dialogue, many have come to understand how their economic power can accomplish greater social good. Those who profit in the food industry must hear your voice, and work together to change a system that even today is still marked by oppressive wages, abuse of workers and violence against women.

Some years ago, we took another long walk together in Florida: and my words for you back then still ring true: *"In this long march of ours there is no tiredness. You may feel tired, your feet may be tired, but you're not tired for seeking justice, for seeking a better life for all our brothers and sisters."*

Please be assured of my prayers for all of you that provide food for our nation, that you may continue to touch the hearts of others to bear fruit for a better future.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas Wenski
Archbishop of Miami