



Catholic Bishops' Conference of Ethiopia

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ቀን 06.09.2013

Date:

ቁጥር CBCE/HH/091/13

Ref:

Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo
President & CEO
Catholic Relief Services
Baltimore, USA

Dear Dr. Carolyn. Woo,

May the Love and Peace of Christ be with you.

We thank God for the 70 years of wonderful compassionate Service delivered by the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) all over the countries where CRS has been and is operational.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of Ethiopia share a fraternal joy with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the CRS Board of Directors; the management at the Baltimore headquarters, country representatives of CRS worldwide and particularly with CRS/Ethiopia.

The Catholic Relief Services entered Ethiopia by the request of the Catholic Bishops of the country during the famine in Tigray where 100,000 lives claimed in the year 1958. CRS has played for the last fifty three years very important role in linking the Catholics in USA with the people of Ethiopia through the local Church particularly in the times hundreds and thousands Ethiopians were in dire situation. CRS, being faithful to the Biblical concept of fraternal solidarity, responded efficiently to the need of Ethiopians in the years in which the country were affected by famine one after the other of which the famine in Wollo (1974) and the great famine in 1983-85) being the biggest ones.

In the course of the difficult times of the history of Ethiopian people, CRS has printed a noble monument of history that will remain fresh in the decades to come. CRS gave birth of a strong structure and institutional capacity through which the Local Church is managing to serve more than fifteen million Ethiopians per year.

Ethiopia, currently, is arising but still has a long way to reach its potential. As we congratulate CRS for the 70 years of Services and thank the Catholics and people with good will in USA we encourage that CRS/Ethiopia, while responding to the need of our people through the existing Ecclesiastical Structures, continues to build up the institutional capacity of the local Church so that our presence among the people in Need will be even more stronger.

As we thank all the benefactors of CRS we congratulate and wish many more successful years to come for CRS.

Fraternally,



Abba Hagos Hayish, C.M.
Secretary General,
Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat

Abune Berhaneyesus D. Souraphiel, C.M.
Archbishops of the Metropolitan archdiocese of Addis Abeba
President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Ethiopia

Cc: CRS-Ethiopian Program
Addis Ababa