

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA (C.B.C.I.)

E-mail : cbcisec@gmail.com
Website : www.cbcisite.com

Phones : (011) 23344470, 23344695
(011) 23362956
Fax : (011) 23364615(CBCI)

2-a-12/CRS

29th August, 2013

Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas,
Board of Directors, Chair
Catholic Relief Services
228 W. Lexington Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-3443

Re: Congratulations to CRS on its 70 Years of Service

Dear Bishop Kicanas,

It is my great pleasure to congratulate CRS on its 70 years of service to people around the world, and over 66 years responding to the needs of the poor and vulnerable in India. From emergency response to community-based, sustainable development initiatives, CRS has continued to be an invaluable source of support to the India Church through partnerships with Diocesan Social Service Societies and the Catholic Bishops' Conference in India (CBCI).

Over the decades, CRS worked with the CBCI network to respond to the deadly Bihar famine in the mid-1960s and the massive influx of millions of refugees during the Bangladesh war in the early 1970s. CRS and CBCI also worked closely together on an enormous and long-standing food program supported by the U.S. Government that assisted millions of people through a variety of education, health, agriculture and emergency programs. In addition, CRS and CBCI worked closely together to respond to the devastating 2004 tsunami and to the many floods and earthquakes that continue to strike India each year.

CRS and CBCI work together in some of India's most vulnerable communities to address immediate needs, strengthen the participation of women in local decision-making, and ensure the successful and sustainable implementation of relief and development programs. Combined, CRS and CBCI form a major partnership in India on programs focusing on disaster management, livelihoods, health and the protection of women and children from human traffickers.

It is clear that CRS's support to CBCI and the people of India is long-term and genuine. While CRS consistently strives for high quality programs, its work is always rooted in Catholic Social Teaching and dedicated to preserving the sacredness and dignity of human life from conception to natural death.

CBCI looks forward to its continued partnership with CRS in India. May God bless you during this 70 year milestone and in years to come.

Yours fraternally in Christ,



✠ Oswald Cardinal Gracias
Archbishop of Bombay &
President, CBCI