



Photo by Lauren Carroll/CRS



CRS Parish Ambassador Corps

AMBASSADORS OF HOPE— TO THE PARISH, TO THE WORLD

Inspired by Pope Francis, Catholics across the United States hunger for new ways to live their faith—to encounter and respond to excluded and suffering people around the world. A passion for mission inspires Catholics, as disciples of Jesus Christ, to put the teachings of the Church into practice by energizing their parish communities to have a global impact. To help Catholics answer this call, Catholic Relief Services has developed the CRS Parish Ambassador Corps.

Overview

CRS Parish Ambassadors are active parishioners with a passion for [global solidarity](#). They encourage their parishes to respond to Catholic social teaching by engaging their fellow parishioners to participate in CRS Rice Bowl and at least two other global solidarity initiatives, annually:

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| EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT | CRS Rice Bowl CRS Fair Trade Helping Hands Catholics Confront Global Poverty CRS Food Fast |
| AWARENESS | CRS Speaker Tour Bulletin Stories: You Did It For Me |
| STEWARDSHIP | CRS FaithActs CRS Gift Catalog Global Emergency Response |

CRS provides these tools for engagement to help Catholics respond to the Gospel call to help our vulnerable brothers and sisters around the world.

Support for Parish Ambassadors

CRS Parish Ambassadors receive special formation on the spiritual roots of our call to care for those in need during two retreats—which include training—that are provided through their local diocese or archdiocese. Participants then become part of a nationwide CRS-Ambassador community, sharing encouragement, prayer and resources via a unique social networking platform. They also receive hands-on training in skills for effective parish engagement. These skills include:

- ✓ Building teams
- ✓ Identifying and engaging leaders and participants
- ✓ Facilitating meetings
- ✓ Becoming mentors
- ✓ Using CRS faith-sharing resources

Ambassadors are briefed by special webinars on global emergencies and issues that impact people living in poverty overseas.

Qualities

An effective CRS Parish Ambassador is connected to and able to collaborate with others and actively participates in parish life. He or she also has an interest in global mission and discipleship and desires to develop and grow as a leader. Diocesan leaders will act as mentors to Parish Ambassadors, with support from CRS regional offices, and technical assistance and training will be provided by CRS headquarters staff. Parish Ambassadors are nominated by their pastor or a member of the parish staff. (Ambassadors may be parish staff.) Although Parish Ambassadors may self-identify through CRS, they must be commissioned by their pastor.



Photo by Philip Laubner/CRS

Expectations

CRS Parish Ambassadors are expected to collaborate with pastors and parish staff to coordinate three or more global solidarity initiatives within the pastoral year—September through August—that help their fellow parishioners respond to the Gospel call to care for those in need. Ambassadors make a 2-year commitment to the program. After that, they may renew their commitment annually.

For more information

Email parishambassador@crs.org or visit crs.org/parishambassador

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