

CRS Club Talking Points

Thank you for sharing about your school's CRS Club. Use these talking points, along with the CRS Club letter to parents, to answer questions about Catholic Relief Services, CRS Clubs and club activities.

Catholic Relief Services

- Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to serve World War II survivors in Europe. Today, we serve more than 140 million people in more than 100 countries on five continents.
- CRS is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. We are governed by a board of directors of clergy—most of them bishops elected by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops—as well as religious and Catholic lay women and men.
- CRS carries out the USCCB's commitment to assist people who are poor and vulnerable around the world. We are motivated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ to cherish, preserve and uphold the sacredness and dignity of all human life, to foster charity and justice, and to embody Catholic social and moral teaching. We work to:
 - PROMOTE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT by responding to major emergencies, fighting disease and poverty, and nurturing peaceful and just societies; and,
 - SERVE CATHOLICS IN THE UNITED STATES as they live their faith in solidarity with their sisters and brothers around the world.
- As part of the universal mission of the Catholic Church, we work with local, national and international Catholic institutions and structures and other organizations to assist people on the basis of need, not creed, race or nationality.

CRS Clubs

- CRS Clubs is an exciting new initiative from CRS for Catholic high schools.
- It's part of a national network of other high school clubs and university and parish chapter communities that are working together to end global poverty.
- Through clubs, students learn about pressing humanitarian issues that contribute to global poverty, develop important leadership skills and take meaningful action that helps our global family.
- CRS Club members meet twice a month to learn and plan action steps. At one of the meetings, they listen to the recording of the CRS monthly national conference call, which features an expert guest speaker, best practices by other members, training and the monthly action reminders.

- Students take the monthly actions provided by CRS and each fall and spring CRS Clubs plan one advocacy event and one community giving event for the school community.

Advocacy

- Catholic Relief Services is a pro-life organization dedicated to preserving the sacredness and dignity of human life from conception to natural death. We protect, defend and advance human life around the world by directly meeting basic needs and advocating for solutions to injustice.
- CRS advocates its policy positions to the U.S. Congress, White House, Department of State and other U.S. government entities to influence and advance public policy in close collaboration with the USCCB and in keeping with Catholic social teaching. We strive to do so in a bi-partisan manner, bringing people together to support humanitarian and development work around the world.
- Club members take individual monthly advocacy actions to grow in their advocacy skills and build relationships with their members of Congress, including writing letters to members of Congress, meeting with members, writing letters to the editor and more.
- Our CRS Club will plan two school-wide advocacy events each year that teach our campus community about the issues club members are learning about and mobilize them to take action.

Community Giving

- Community giving provides an opportunity for students to support in a tangible way our global family members who experience poverty, conflict, hunger, emergencies and other affronts to their human dignity.
- Our CRS Club will plan and execute two school-wide fundraising events a year to raise money for CRS' lifesaving work, one of which might be CRS Rice Bowl during Lent.
- The funds our CRS Club raises will help provide emergency relief, food, clean water, medical care, access to education and more to those most in need around the world.

