

CRS Diocesan Director Ministry Guidelines

CRS Diocesan Directors are valued and important partners for CRS in the effort to educate and mobilize people within their dioceses to act on behalf of our sisters and brothers around the world and live in global solidarity as one human family. CRS Diocesan Directors help inform their bishops and United States Catholics about CRS' global work on behalf of the Church, promote CRS campaigns, identify opportunities for chapters, and join in with us on legislative actions critical to our collective service to the most vulnerable around the world.

Responsibilities of the Diocesan Director

Diocesan directors often have multiple responsibilities within a diocese, and how they fulfill their role varies greatly across the United States. Some diocesan directors dedicate significant amounts of their time to CRS. Others recruit volunteers or form committees to assist with these activities. Recognizing and respecting the different capacities of diocesan directors, below is a list of various responsibilities they could have while supporting CRS:

- Attend the CRS diocesan director orientation, leadership trainings and other meetings as appropriate.
- Represent CRS at diocesan and parish events with exhibits, workshops and public speaking engagements.
- Manage diocesan participation in [CRS Rice Bowl](#), including promoting engagement in parishes and schools, ensuring accurate ordering of CRS Rice Bowl materials and stewarding local funds (25%).
- Coordinate, manage and promote the [annual CRS collection](#).
- Coordinate the diocesan response to international emergencies.
- Organize parish and diocesan events to educate about poverty, Catholic social teaching—particularly the call to global solidarity—and the work of CRS.
- Identify leaders—such as parish CRS Rice Bowl coordinators and CRS advocacy champions—who can organize their local communities into [CRS Chapters and Clubs](#).
- Communicate with members of Congress as a representative of the diocese and/or develop and coordinate a legislative network to involve Catholics in [advocacy](#).
- Support diocesan offices and ministries in integrating [CRS campaigns](#) and calls to action into their ministries.

- Build relationships with parishes—pastors and parish leadership—to identify and form local leaders who can educate their communities and bring together people to support those in need around the world through [legislative advocacy](#) and [community fundraising](#).

- Work with the Catholic and secular media to publicize local events, raise awareness of CRS' emergency and international development work and invite others to engage in [CRS' campaigns](#) and chapters within the diocese.

What could an engaged diocese look like?

There are many ways a diocese can engage in CRS campaigns and use CRS resources. Here are examples of what a diocese engaged with CRS could look like:

- Parishes and schools throughout the diocese participate in CRS Rice Bowl, expanding and deepening participation over time.

- CRS Chapters and Clubs exist at parishes, colleges and/or high schools in the diocese.

- Events or media are organized around key dates in the [CRS action calendar 2024-2025](#)

- CRS stories, videos and other resources are used as part of parish or diocesan events and/or in diocesan media. Use CRS sample messages, photos and videos in the [Communications and Social Media Kit](#) to inspire your community to take action for a better tomorrow.

- [CRS action alerts](#) are used at events and/or shared through diocesan social media.

- Parish social ministry staff and/or other parish or ministry leaders use CRS programs and resources.

- [CRS Global Fellows](#) speak at diocesan clergy gatherings, preach at diocesan Masses or participate in diocesan events.

- [Opportunities to take advocacy action exist](#)—through trainings, letter offerings, phone drives or legislative visits