

## Diocesan Global Solidarity Team

A challenge consistently identified by diocesan social ministry staff is the desire and expectation to do more social ministry with fewer resources. Of course, the fundamental solution to the problem is to build staff capacity. Assuming that your budget has not magically increased recently, the key is recruiting and activating skilled volunteer leaders who will enthusiastically take on ministry responsibilities with minimum supervision. At a recent annual meeting of CRS diocesan directors, several models for strengthening capacity were identified. They are:

1. Organize an all-volunteer Diocesan Global Solidarity Team who provides support for various CRS programs operating in the diocese. (The CRS Global Solidarity Team may be a sub group of another diocesan social ministry team.)
2. Recruit, form and train 1-3 volunteers who have specified responsibilities to assist staff with various diocesan CRS oversight and support functions (e.g. CRS programs, giving global solidarity/CRS talks, organizing global solidarity ministry teams in parishes, promoting the CRS collection, etc...).
3. As part of a detailed, long-term vision and plan, organize and train parish leaders who, in turn, organize and develop (parish) social ministry teams that include global solidarity/CRS efforts.
4. Identify key diocesan staff and cultivate relationships with them for the purpose of collaborating on specific, mutually beneficial social ministry activities, including global solidarity.
5. Serve as the coordinator of and support to the JustFaith participants in the diocese, including the development of a JustFaith participants' network. Utilize the network as a primary source of leaders for social ministry work, including global solidarity/CRS efforts.
6. Monitor formal, diocesan faith formation efforts that have a social ministry component, including the ability to access participant lists.
7. Develop and implement web-based methods for expanding the reach of the diocesan social ministry office, including global solidarity/CRS efforts.

Because of its potential to offer more types of ministry and action vehicles, "Building a Diocesan Global Solidarity Ministry Team" was identified most often as the most effective capacity building model. What follows is a description of a successful one in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

The Post Hurricane Katrina Global Solidarity Committee has been meeting for the past 3 years. Here is the mission statement of that committee: "As faithful members of the Catholic Church and as citizens of the global community, we strive to promote educational and advocacy

opportunities for the people of the Archdiocese of New Orleans so all may better embrace the call to global solidarity.”

The committee, which meets once a month, has individuals from the following groups: CRS/Office of Justice and Peace, parish global solidarity leaders and JF grads, Office of Religious Education, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Archbishop Rummel HS (Global Solidarity School), Bread for the World, Pontifical Mission Society and Maryknoll.

The focus of the first year was confronting climate change. During the second year, the committee focused on the Catholics Confront Global Poverty advocacy initiative. This year, they have been working on an extensive PowerPoint and study guide designed to promote legislative advocacy on behalf of global solidarity.

If you are interested in constructing a diocesan global solidarity team, please contact your CRS Regional Team or Tom Ulrich ([tom.ulrich@crs.org](mailto:tom.ulrich@crs.org)) in the national office for assistance.

*This submission comes from a directive of Tom Ulrich, CRS Director of Constituency Relations and Support with input from the CRS Southeast regional staff and Tom Costanza, the CRS Diocesan Director in New Orleans.*