



DIOCESAN INVENTORY: CRS PLANNING

Use some of the questions below to do an “inventory” of what is happening in your diocese with regard to global peace and justice initiatives before starting a CRS committee or outreach program. These questions are not exhaustive—they are intended to give you a starting point. You will have your own creative ideas and questions to add to this as you begin your planning.

To discuss some of these questions, feel free to call Kim Mazyck at 410-951-7424, or send her an email at kimberly.mazyck@crs.org.

General Question

To your knowledge, what diocesan offices/groups have taken on aspects of global justice/solidarity activities, for example, peace and justice groups, advocacy groups, missions offices, missionaries, etc.?

CRS General Questions

- How would you characterize the knowledge of CRS in your diocese currently? Are people aware of CRS? How are they aware of CRS?
- Which CRS programs and/or advocacy initiatives are well-known in the diocese currently?
- Which CRS programs and/or advocacy initiatives have more potential in the diocese?

Internal Collaboration

- Which diocesan offices share global solidarity as a mission? How do we collaborate? How can we collaborate better?
- Are there specific ideas/activities ongoing in the diocese that can connect with CRS and the Church’s broader mission of global solidarity?
- Where is there natural interest for global issues in the diocese (e.g., ethnic ministries, [local] migration/refugee services, Missions Office, etc.)? How do we collaborate? How can we collaborate better?

External Collaboration

- Are there other groups outside the diocesan structure that would be interested in collaborating on global peace and justice initiatives (college groups, interfaith groups, other Catholic organizations)?

- Are there key people (returned missionaries, CRS trip alumni—Frontiers of Justice, Called to Witness, Global Fellows, etc.) who might be interested in volunteering time to provide global peace and justice outreach to communities in the diocese?
- Are there parish peace and justice committees interested in the work of CRS and global solidarity?

Starting a CRS Committee

A CRS Committee can be a means of sharing the message and mission of CRS, and can inspire interested people in the diocese to further action for global solidarity. A committee also allows for shared responsibility and encourages ownership of CRS activities and mission with a larger group of people. Here are a few things to think about as you plan to begin a CRS Committee:

- What other committees/boards does the diocese have already and can their mandates be expanded to include CRS, or should another committee/outreach group be developed to support CRS activities in the diocese?
- What are some global solidarity goals that the diocese would like to accomplish in the next three to five years?
- Whose gifts and talents could help achieve these goals (i.e., individuals or groups)?
- What is a manageable size for a committee (*Suggestion: start small with a group of committed individuals, and build from there.*)?
- How will we get started? (*You can have a CRS representative give an “orientation to CRS” or you, as our Diocesan Director, can give this yourself—we have a prepared presentation. You can also have a CRS representative help the group through a visioning process, so you can develop your ideas and goals together.*)
- What will we agree to in the first year? Second? Third? Beyond? (*Suggestion: again, start with a small initiative, gauge the impact, and then grow your ideas from there, e.g., the Diocese of Metuchen, N.J., first wanted to increase participation in CRS Rice Bowl across the board, but they realized this was impossible, so they decided to do it one parish at a time...and it worked!*)
- How will we structure our committee? Do we want subcommittees? Do we want working groups?
- How often will we meet? Where? Who will convene the meetings?
- How long should a committee member commit to the CRS Committee?
- How will we evaluate our activities/ideas?
- How will we recruit new committee members?