

MAPPING IS TOOL TO HELP YOU:

- to broaden ownership of global solidarity & social ministry;
- to identify and engage key leaders, both at the diocesan and parish levels;
- to identify parishes and other institutions for potential engagement.



Relational Mapping of a Diocese:

FORMAL LEADERS/ KEY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

- Who are the formal leaders of the diocese (heads of offices, programs) with the widest reach, the “go-to” people in diocesan offices who have the ability (contacts, networks and resources) to get things done on a large scale?
- Which leader or leaders (besides the ordinary) regularly convene people across the diocese on a regular basis? (Think networks: priests, deacons, Pastoral Associates, DREs, etc.)

INFORMAL LEADERS & ORGANIZATION LEADERS

- Are there any informal/organization leaders? (These people may not be a head of office, but have a large constituency, or broad access to pastors/parish staff). In some Dioceses Knights of Columbus, Council of Catholic Women, JustFaith, Cursillo, and other lay apostolic movements may be on this list.
- Key ethnic communities may be linked in more informal groupings (prayer groups, ethnic associations). Who are their leaders?
- Are there any key existing CRS relationships (Rice Bowl Coordinators, Global Fellows, deacons who are already familiar with CRS)? How do they connect to dioceses / parishes?

MAPPING FOR PARISH ENGAGEMENT

- In one-to-one meetings with key diocesan staff, ask questions about strategic parishes (both in terms of size and resources, ethnic composition, but also influence).
- Where, for our purposes, have the seeds of social mission and global solidarity already been planted? (e.g. mission relationships overseas, active JustFaith, presence of parish social ministry, large immigrant populations, Rice Bowl history).

HINTS TO KEEP IN MIND

- The results of one round of analysis are not permanent. Leaders change; relationships change; circumstances change. Be prepared to continue this reflection over time.
- Know and honor the motivations of the leaders you identify.
- Be aware of the ingredients of sustainability for your work in your setting.

A good relational analysis is based on trusting relationships that have been developed over a period of time through a systematic series of relational meetings. The key is to keep observing, refining and adding to an ongoing understanding of how the [diocese or parish] really works.

-Michael Gecan, Effective Organizing for Congregational Renewal