

# PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

## You Matter to CRS

U.S. Operations Division



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### CRS GLOBAL EMERGENCY SNAPSHOT

This [CRS Global Emergency Update](#) provides the latest snapshot of the most pressing humanitarian emergency responses in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Middle East.

Our work is possible thanks to the your generous support as a CRS Partner.



Photo by Michael Stulman/CRS

“Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God

- Pope Francis Laudato Si, 119



### What It Was Like To Know Mother Teresa

By Jim DeHarpoorte, CRS West Regional Director

To win the Nobel Peace Prize is a rare feat. For a Nobel Peace Prize winner to be declared a saint, well that is unique. And for this Nobel prize winning saint to be revered by Christians, Muslims and Hindus alike, our world may not see the like again.

It was at the Hindu temple dedicated to Kali, that Mother Teresa began her ministry. It was near a dark, congested lane next to the temple, lined with beggars and stained with the blood of animal sacrifice, that pilgrims came from distant villages to worship and sometimes to die. Here at Kalighat, she and her sisters set up a small room to bathe, spoon feed, and comfort the dying and destitute.

One of the great privileges of my life is that I knew this iconic figure: Mother Teresa. I was with her in Kolkata on that morning in 1979 when she received a telegram informing her that she was to be the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. During my time in India working for Catholic Relief Services (CRS), I got to know this small woman who put an enormous stamp on history. People would travel. [Click here to read Jim's complete article in Huffington Post's Voice's section.](#)



### NEW!!! CRS and Catholic Schools Week - January 2017



Late January 2017, CRS is being provided a unique opportunity – to pilot an elementary outreach program as a component of Catholic Schools Week. Together, NCEA (the National Catholic Educational Association) and CRS will be promoting awareness of the **Syrian Refugee Crisis** by providing Catholic elementary (and high schools for the pilot) opportunities for prayer, pilgrimage, simulations

and reflection. All resources are free once communities register. [Click here to download a copy of the Flier.](#)

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NEWS from the Southeast Regional Office

Pilgrimage offers Encounters of Gratitude, Hospitality

*A Reflection by Most Reverend Joseph Kopacz that appeared in his Mississippi Catholic column on August 19, 2016.*

For several days last week, I had the opportunity through the invitation and generosity of Catholic Relief Services, to travel on encuentro (a visit of personal encounter) to Honduras with five others from across the United States. This mission broadened my direct experience of Central America, which is rather limited.

This pilgrimage to Honduras was unique in that I experienced the fruits of some of CRS's developmental projects in one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, allowing me to encounter segments of the Honduran population ..[Click here to read Bishop Kopacz's complete reflection.](#)



Bishop Kopacz addresses a group of coffee farmers during his visit to Finca el Zarzal in San Juan municipality, Intibucá, Honduras. (Photo by Suyapa Maradiaga, CRS Honduras)



Savannah and Atlanta Delegations to CRS Rwanda receive Blessings



Pictured in this photo are Bishop Gregory Hartmayer as he blesses the Delegation traveling from Savannah, GA (Pictured from Left to Right): Ann Pinckney, Fr. Pablo Migone and Sister Pat Brown.



Pictured in this photo are Archbishop Wilton Gregory as he blesses the Delegation traveling from Atlanta, GA (Pictured from Left to Right): Ashley Morris and Kathy Montag.

Please keep in your prayers the delegation that is traveling in Rwanda. The group includes members from the Diocese of Joliet, IL, Diocese of Savannah, GA and Archdiocese of Atlanta, GA.

“There is no worse material poverty ... than the poverty which prevents people from earning their bread and deprives them of the dignity of work.” —Pope Francis

When you purchase fair trade products, you stand in solidarity with the poor and respect their right to dignified work.

## New Resources from CRS Fair Trade!



### Create Fellowship with CRS Fair Trade

Bring the global marketplace to life with new Parish and School Kits! From prayers and activities to fun community events these resources focus on our everyday actions, like what we choose to buy.



Parish Kit

Visit the CRS Fair Trade [Resource Page](#) to get started today and learn how your purchase can have a positive or negative affect on the workers who produced it.

<http://www.crsfairtrade.org/fair-trade-resources/parish/>



School Kit

<http://www.crsfairtrade.org/fair-trade-resources/school/>

Thank you for all you do to promote fair trade to your communities. Please reach out to [fairtrade@crs.org](mailto:fairtrade@crs.org) if you have any questions.

The CRS Fair Trade Team



## Great News from CRS Education !



### THE NEW - CRS ARK OF HOPE

The CRS Ark of Hope program provides homeschool families, parishes and schools with elementary aged children a prayer service and lesson plans around the story of Noah's Ark. In addition to the educational resources, communities can actively buy symbolic animals and



“Build an Ark” providing a fun way to raise awareness of poor and vulnerable people overseas. Tools to “Build an Ark” can be downloaded for free including: a bulletin board sized ark, cows, lambs & baby goats, pigs, rabbits, chickens, honeybees, saplings

or communities can set the goal to fill a whole ark with animals! All items are actual goods and services provided to the people CRS serves overseas. The animals described in this program are symbolic of the good a donation will do for children, women and men in more than 100 countries. As students creatively raise money towards the community goals, they can color in animals and place them on the ark for all to see! This program can aid a community to live their Catholic faith, help those in need, color in animals, and have fun doing it! Communities can participate in the program on a rolling basis. For more information, go to [Arkofhope.crs.org](http://Arkofhope.crs.org)



At their core, Catholic schools are called to serve the poor and vulnerable, uphold the dignity of human life and form disciples who bring about justice.



### **CRS INVITES YOU TO INSPIRE THE YOUNG PEOPLE YOU SERVE! CHECK OUT THESE DEVELOPMENTS!**

#### **CRS EDUCATION WEBSITE IS BACK WITH A NEW LOOK!**

Explore all the ways to help youth live their faith. Meet our vulnerable brothers and sisters around the globe. Learn about their lives and reflect on the root causes of their suffering. Take action to ease poverty, hunger and injustice. These are just a few ways CRS Education helps youth encounter the world. Rooted in Catholic social teaching, our programs and resources are creating lasting change — and a new generation of global citizens. Visit [education.crs.org](http://education.crs.org) for this growing library of education, youth ministry, and faith formation resources.

#### **CRS CALLED TO WITNESS**

Catholic Relief Services, in partnership with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry and the National Association for Catholic Youth Ministry Leaders, announces the 2017 Called to Witness trip to Ethiopia in May 2017. Through Called to Witness, CRS provides parish, diocesan and national youth ministry professionals with a global experience to help them call and empower young people to an active commitment to working for solidarity, peace and justice. The Called to Witness experience does not aim to be a direct service program, but rather an opportunity for meeting people, developing relationships, and learning about the work of the Church around the world with the hope of enhancing faith formation and youth ministries. Among the many situations and realities explored, this delegation will highlight CRS' work in the areas of migration, peacebuilding, youth violence prevention programming, and integral human development. Potential collaboration between NFCYM / NACYML and CRS/ Ethiopia will be explored, particularly as it relates to poverty, climate change, and global solidarity. Applications **are now available at** [education.crs.org](http://education.crs.org). For more information, contact Ted Miles at 410-951-7475 or [ted.miles@crs.org](mailto:ted.miles@crs.org).

#### **CRS FOODFAST IS GETTING A FACELIFT!**

CRS FoodFast, a hunger awareness experience for Catholic youth will be getting a facelift with a new website, launching November 3, 2016! A registration feature will allow us to serve you better as we offer a new set of resources based on Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. Until then, you will be able to preview materials by visiting the [current website](#) or by contacting [foodfast@crs.org](mailto:foodfast@crs.org).

Developed in collaboration with the [Center for Ministry Development](#), CRS FoodFast will offer resources for three retreat themes: ENOUGH (food security), JUST FOOD (right relationship with food), and UNCOMMON GOOD (based on *Laudato Si'*). Five flexible formats allow parishes, schools and families to participate fully in this exciting experience:

*Confirmation Retreat – Family Night – 3-Hour – 10-Hour – 24-Hour*

#### **HELP YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE A STAND AND LEAD!**

CRS is developing a new peer ministry program, *STAND AND LEAD*. The program is being designed to help young people learn what it means to stand in solidarity on a global level, to live lives that witness solidarity, and to teach their peers how to stand in solidarity. We are looking for faith communities that would be willing to prototype a retreat and provide feedback for building the necessary tools and online experience that can serve young people. If you know of a community that might be willing to share in this role, contact Ted Miles at 410-951-7475 or [ted.miles@crs.org](mailto:ted.miles@crs.org).



# CRS HELPING HANDS In partnership with STOP HUNGER NOW



## The Body of Christ in Atlanta

*This story was written by Kathy Montag, the Catholic Relief Services Capacity Building Specialist for the Archdiocese of Atlanta.*

The gong sounded loudly, opening, in a real sense, a holy door in this Year of Mercy. With its 2016 theme, “Be Merciful as Your Father is Merciful,” the Archdiocese of Atlanta’s Eucharistic Congress began like no other – with Helping Hands!

The goal had been set almost a year prior: 500 volunteers, 3 hours, 100,000 meals. Our motto: “The Eucharist commits us to the poor” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1397). ACCOMPLISHED! Not only was it a joy-filled, family-filled event, plans are to make it a permanent part of our Congress. After all, this is Eucharist.



Photo courtesy of Kathy Montag

Equally as meaningful was how much our volunteers were a reflection of the Body of Christ; the rich diversity that is the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Atlanta. Without question, the most remarkable volunteers were volunteers from our



Photo courtesy of Kathy Montag

disabled community, which is a strong, well-connected, ecumenical group of people living with disabilities and their caregivers in the Atlanta area. Around 40 of them participated and several of our teens and seminarians assisted them. It was one of the more beautiful outpourings of love I’ve ever witnessed. Their ministry director explained that so often people living with disabilities are considered “takers” in our society. This was such an amazing opportunity for them to be seen as “givers;” those opportunities are rare. Though their minds or bodies may be disabled, their SPIRIT is intact because we are all created in God’s image.



### Coming for 2017

Check out the [2017 September/October CRS Rice Bowl Newsletter](#) for theological reflections on our theme of encounter and other resources to help plan for this coming Lenten season.



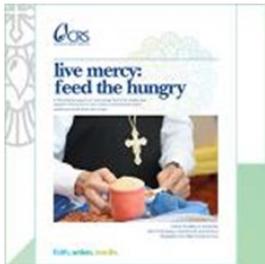
The **CRS Resource Center** (<http://www.crs.org/get-involved/resource-center>) offers an array of resources suitable for all ages to form disciples to live out Christ's call to care for the poor and vulnerable everywhere.

As you plan for the upcoming pastoral year, be sure to check out our **calendar of resources** for ministry!



### **Prayers for Catechetical Sunday**

Prayers to help parish catechetical leaders integrate this year's Catechetical Sunday theme, "Prayer: The Faith Prayed," into their ministry. See also how **CRS contributes to the Six Tasks of Catechesis**.



### **Live Mercy: Adult Faith-Sharing Resources**

A series of faith-sharing sessions for small groups made up of 3, 90-minute sessions about how to live mercy in different areas of our daily lives. These peer-led sessions are a great way to help mark the closing of the Jubilee Year this fall.



### **Solidarity Vigil for Refugees**

An outline for a prayer service for refugees that also includes education and legislative advocacy.



### **Blessed Teresa of Calcutta**

An intergenerational activity, handout, prayers and more to help communities learn about Mother Teresa and to celebrate her canonization.

## **YOU DID IT FOR ME**

You Did It for Me is an exciting joint venture between Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services that are brief good news stories of the Church in action across America and around the world. **A new feature is available!** A "how to" e-brochure answers questions and offers suggestions on how to use the stories is available on **CRS.org/you-did-it-for-me**. It easily explains the download features with step-by-step directions for church bulletins, websites, newsletters, even for Facebook and Twitter. Please visit **CRS.org/you-did-it-for-me** for the e-brochure and a sign-up form if you're not already receiving these wonderful stories. Share with all!!! If you have questions, send them to **bulletinstories@crs.org**.

## **CONTACT US**

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· Email: **resources@crs.org**

· U.S. Operations Call Center at  
1-866-608-5978

**CRS U.S. Operations**

Jacklyn Ireland, communications specialist for the U.S. Operations Partnership, Training and Engagement Unit, prepares the bi-monthly *Partnership Newsletter*. The U.S. Operations Partnership, Training and Engagement Unit is responsible for managing national partnerships in the United States for CRS. If you would like others in your organization to receive this newsletter or if you have questions please contact the U.S. Operations Call Center at 1-866-608-5978 or email: **resources@crs.org**.