



# PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

## You Matter to CRS

U.S. Operations Division



November/December 2016

Volume 14, Issue 6

### CRS GLOBAL UPDATE

#### Emergency Update for November 2016

This emergency update captures the latest information from CRS teams responding to new and ongoing emergencies. You will find an update on Hurricane Matthew from CRS teams in Haiti, as well as the latest from Iraq, the Middle East and Europe in response to ongoing crises in the region. From Africa, you'll find an update from South Sudan, Ethiopia, and the West and Central African countries affected by Boko Haram. An update from the Philippines three years after Typhoon Haiyan is also included. Please [click here to view the emergency update](#).



Hurricane Matthew killed as many as 900 people and destroyed tens of thousands of homes in Haiti. Photo courtesy of Caritas.

“Among our tasks as witnesses to the love of Christ is that of giving a voice to the cry of the poor.”

(Pope Francis, [Address to the Archbishop of Canterbury](#), 6/14/13)



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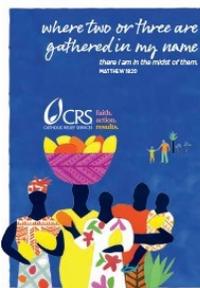
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- *CRS 2015 Annual Report Now Online*

#### The CRS 2015 Annual Report is now Available Online

Our *2015 Annual Report* is now available online! It is a reminder of the power of your faith and generosity—and the positive and profound changes we've made together.

Your impact is felt far and wide in our agriculture, education, health, emergency response and other projects.

Thank you for all that you do to serve those in need.



#### 2017 Resources Are Ready!

Read the *November/December CRS Rice Bowl Newsletter* for complete information on accessing resources for families, parishes, youth ministries, high schools, young adults, Hispanic ministries and more. This Lent, we answering Pope Francis' call to "build a culture of encounter."



# Partnership News from CRS Regional Offices

## NEWS from the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Regional Office



### Kraków in the CAPITAL: 2016 World Youth Day Stateside

By Mary Beth Iduh, CRS Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Region

At the invitation of the Archdiocese of Washington, CRS was honored to co-sponsor [Kraków in the Capital](#), a daylong pilgrimage hosted by several Mid-Atlantic dioceses and universities on July 30, 2016. It was attended by 1,300 young adult pilgrims from over 50 dioceses and it was the largest US celebration of World Youth Day to date! As an in-kind sponsor, CRS provided two inspirational [catechesis talks](#) in English and Spanish on the theme “Mercy Without Borders”, an educational simulation about the plight of unaccompanied children from Central America, and global discipleship prayers and resource materials.

**Dr. Maryann Cusimano Love**, a world-renowned international politics professor from Catholic University of America, and **Mr. Andrés Arango**, president of the National Charismatic Renewal Movement and the head of Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Camden addressed the audience. They lifted up how our Church shares mercy based on their own experiences with CRS overseas and encouraged Catholic young adults to get involved with CRS here in the U.S.



Mr. Andrés Arango addresses young adult pilgrims during [Kraków in the Capital](#). CRS staff photo.

CRS worked with **CRS Student Ambassadors** and other student leaders from **Cabrini University**, **Villanova University** and **University of Maryland** to provide a [Refugees Seeking Safety Simulation](#) experience for the



CRS student ambassador welcomes participant to [Refugees Seeking Safety Simulation](#). CRS staff photo.

pilgrims, which was featured in a Catholic Standard article [“Krakow in the Capital festival brings World Youth Day to Washington”](#). This simulation was created by CRS Student Ambassadors at **Cabrini University** to educate participants on the issues facing refugees, especially unaccompanied minors, fleeing gang violence, domestic abuse and drug cartels in their home countries of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

CRS Student Ambassadors helped carry the cross during the evening Candlelight Stations of the Cross, which was captured in this World Youth Day in DC [recap video](#).

### Jeff Mayer-Merion Mercy Academy

by Cheryl Mrazik, CRS Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Region

Jeff Mayer of Merion Mercy Academy, theology chair and faculty liaison for the CRS Global High School program, and Cheryl Mrazik co-facilitated a faculty workshop for 50 faculty and staff on August 24. Merion Mercy is a **CRS Platinum School**. Jeff traveled with a CRS delegation to Uganda in June, and shared his experiences with his colleagues. The workshop also included prayer and reflection, content on Catholic social teaching and CRS’ peacebuilding resources, and department planning time.



Jeff Mayer talking with students in Uganda during his CRS Delegation trip.

## Partnership News from CRS Regional Offices

### NEWS from the Southeast Regional Office

#### Crossing to the Side of Peace: A story from Rwanda

By Fr. Pablo Migone, Excerpt below from the *PATHEOS INSIDER*

Fr. Pablo Migone traveled on a CRS Diocesan Delegation trip to Rwanda and it renewed his faith. Please read Fr. Pablo's reflection on what he experienced during his visits to CRS programs in Rwanda. It is available in [English and Spanish](#).

*" I traveled to Rwanda in July 2016 with Catholic Relief Services as part of a delegation. What I saw and heard from the people I met there renewed my faith in the power of forgiveness and reconciliation to create peace between people, between nations, and in oneself. Read more at <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/labmind/2016/10/crossing-to-the-side-of-peace-a-story-from-rwanda.html>*



Delegation Participants from the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Diocese of Joliet and Diocese of Savannah are pictured with CRS Staff and Representatives from the Bishop's Conference of Ghana.

#### Diocese of Charlotte CRS Diocesan Directors Host a Retreat for Faith Leaders in Social Ministry

As part of the CRS Capacity Building Initiative, on November 4th thirty parish social ministry leaders, representing both Hispanic and Anglo communities of the Charlotte diocese gathered in Maggie Valley, NC to continue their work of building a network for global and local social ministry in Western North Carolina. Hosted by CRS Diocesan Directors Joe Purello and CBI Animator Nick Haskell, the bilingual and bi-cultural parish leadership retreat focused on equipping folks to actively engage their communities in the pursuit of justice and the common good both globally and locally. Employing community organizing principles, attendees participated in training sessions that focused on 1 to 1 meetings and parish mapping to intentionally build capacity. They also experienced formation around Catholic Social Teaching principles, exploring theological reflections on "how the world should be" versus "how the world is." Deacon Robert Vigil, a CRS Global Fellow, guided the weekend with a truly gracious and pastoral presence. A highlight for Nick Haskell was being inspired by seeing "the bridge building and people willing to step outside of their comfort zones reaching across racial and cultural distinctions, and participants understand a new paradigm in parish social justice through relational engagement."



Retreat photo: L to R, Joe Purello, Diocese of Charlotte, Deacon Robert Vigil, CRS Global Fellow, Carla Ortiz , CRS Relationship Manager, Kathleen O'Toole, CRS Capacity Building Specialist, Nick Haskell, Diocese of Charlotte. (Photo courtesy of CRS staff)

“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!



### Two Ways to Fair Trade Your Holidays

1. Purchase gifts from CRS' partners [Serv](#) and [Equal Exchange](#).



2. Host a [fair trade sale](#) in your community- it's not too late!



Learn more at [www.crsfairtrade.org](http://www.crsfairtrade.org) or email us at [fairtrade@crs.org](mailto:fairtrade@crs.org)

### [Turn On the Light: Help Stop Human Trafficking](#)

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. With 21 million victims worldwide, there are more slaves today than at any time in history. Our Catholic faith calls on us to defend life and human dignity and to fight conditions that lead to the enslavement of human beings.

#### Turn on the light with your voice

Urge Congress to support legislation that will help keep supply chains transparent and free of products that are supported by human trafficking. [Act Now](#).

#### Turn on the light with your purchase

Handmade by women refugees rebuilding their lives in the United States, the fair trade Prosperity Candle lights the way to a brighter future. [Buy Now](#).

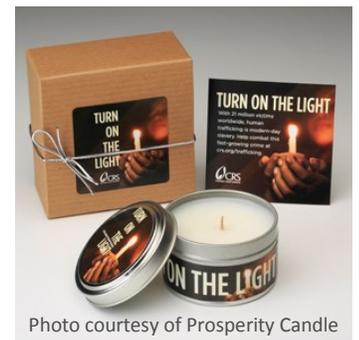


Photo courtesy of Prosperity Candle



## CRS University: Faculty Learning Commons Program for All Learners

CRS University has developed a new, high quality [video about our Faculty Learning Commons program](#). It is designed for a university environment but open and free to all learners. The CRS Faculty Learning Commons provides educational resources and online modules to enrich the learning experience by tapping into CRS' expertise in global development and humanitarian response around the world. The educational resources place a special emphasis on the application of CRS' justice lens, integral human development model and opportunities for building global solidarity.



CRS' contribution to NCEA's Catholic Schools Week for January of 2017 with the theme of "Syrian Refugee Crisis" includes both High School and Elementary Resources.

Register online at <http://ghs.crs.org/content/little-flower-project> to receive an email linking you to our FREE ONLINE TOOLKIT.

**50%** of Syrian Refugees are **CHILDREN**

Children who need you to use your voice to raise awareness of their struggle.

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. In light of this call, the National Catholic Educational Association and Catholic Relief Services have come together in partnership to create a **FREE "Syrian Refugee Toolkit"** for download and use during Catholic Schools Week 2017.

**Included in the FREE Toolkit are:**

- A variety of prayers
- Videos for Middle and High School
- Elementary, Middle and High School Prayer Pilgrimages/Simulations
- A High School Prayer Service with Legislative Advocacy tools
- A Family Extension to send home
- PowerPoints
- And much more. . .

**CRS**  
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES  
**EDUCATION**



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!

## ADVENT RESOURCES



Our Advent reflections, activities and prayers invite the entire parish community to prepare their hearts to welcome Emmanuel, "God with us" (Matthew 1:23), into our world at Christmas.



### [Weekly Reflections for Families](#)

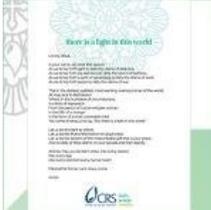
Our weekly reflections are based on the Gospel readings for the Sundays in Advent. They connect the journey that brought Mary and Joseph to the stable with the journey of all those communities around the world that continue to encounter poverty. (Available in Spanish)



### [Holy Family, Refugee Family: Digital Advent Retreat](#)

In Advent, we prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus at Christmas. This retreat invites participants to take ten minutes of the busyness of the season to pause and reflect on how we can welcome Christ into the world today.

## Activities



The Gift of Hope Tree is an opportunity to invite children and families to consider what gifts the Holy Family might have needed when Mary gave birth to Jesus in a manger, and how those gifts compare to what people who live in poverty might need. They will assemble **Gift of Hope Tree Ornaments**, which feature gifts that donations to Catholic Relief Services provide to people around the world. This activity is a great addition to an intergenerational Advent festival or Christmas bazaar. (Available in Spanish)

## Prayers

[Check out](#) our collection of Advent prayers.

Visit [CRS Fair Trade's website](#) for more information about our Advent resources and CRS Fair Trade.

## 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

### CONTACT US

· [CRS Regional Offices](#)

· Email: [resources@crs.org](mailto: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](mailto:resources@crs.org).