

Partnership Newsletter

You Matter to CRS

U.S. Operations Division



November/December 2017

Volume 15, Issue 6

Get Ready for National Migration Week

From January 7–13, 2018 the Church in the U.S. observes [National Migration Week](#). This year's National Migration Week theme is "Many Journeys, One Family."

National Migration Week is a tradition in the Church that stretches back over half a century, inviting us to recognize and celebrate the contributions of immigrants, refugees, migrants and survivors of human trafficking in our communities and around the world. National Migration Week also gives us a chance to highlight the profound global work the Church does to serve and welcome newcomers. [Read the story of Ruth](#), a dreamer out of the shadows. Pray that she can keep her family together and remain in the light.

Passionate about advocacy? [Take Action Now](#). Protect funding for refugees and migrants. Support Dreamers by passing the Dream Act (H.R. 3440/ S. 1615). Call on Congress to act now. (Also available in Spanish: <https://support.crs.org/act/compartiendo-el-viaje>)



Refugees from Afghanistan at the Serbia/Croatia border.



Share the Journey
#sharejourney



#sharejourney
Sharejourney.org

CRS Global Emergency Update



Displaced families receive food in Duk County, South Sudan

This [global emergency update](#) provides the latest snapshot of CRS' ongoing relief and development activities around the world.

Our work is possible thanks to the generous support of private and public donors, the dedication of local partners, and the unwavering presence of Caritas and the local Catholic Church.

[Media Center Live: Link to CRS News Releases and Videos](#)

In This Issue

- ⇒ **Global Migration:** Get Ready for National Migration Week
- ⇒ **CRS Global Emergency Update**
- ⇒ [News from CRS Southeast Region](#) – Senait Tedla
- ⇒ [News from CRS Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Region](#) – Mari Barboza
- ⇒ [CRS in the News](#)
- ⇒ [Inaugural Hispanic Heritage Awards](#) – Michael Trujillo
- ⇒ [CRS Programs and Resources Unit](#)
- **CRS Ethical Trade Gift Guide for the Holidays** - Erin Mackey
- **Encounter Lent/CRS Rice Bowl** - Beth Martin
- ⇒ [CRS Resources for Advent and Christmas](#)
- ⇒ [Catholic Social Teaching Series](#)

News from CRS Regional Offices

CRS Southeast Region News

Reflections from Senait Tedla (CRS Office Coordinator, Southeast Region)

On July 19-26, 2017, CRS' Simone Blanchard and I led a seven-day CRS immersion trip to Burkina Faso. We were accompanied by diocesan leaders from Pennsylvania (Levi Keene, Norma Yabut and Lois Heist), Kentucky (Mark Bouchard and Joyce Frazier) and California (Naida Castro and Adriana Franco).

Burkina Faso, one of the poorest countries in the world, is a small landlocked country in West Africa. Its official language is French, although most of the people only speak local tribal dialects. CRS has been working in Burkina Faso since 1960 addressing challenges with agriculture, livelihoods, nutrition and education.

Our group was touched by the measure of hospitality we encountered by the people of Burkina Faso, our brief stay will forever be written in our hearts. Upon our return, the trip helped us to enhance global solidarity in our dioceses for and on behalf of the poor and voiceless around the world. Here is a brief glimpse of our delegation trip:

Driving on a long muddy path through mud huts, we ended up at the Delwende (translated to "Relies on God") Center (pictured right), a compound managed by the Congregation of the Assumption Sisters and supported by CRS. About 230 elderly, sick and disabled women live in the center. They are all wrongfully accused of witchcraft and ostracized by their tribes. We excitedly introduced ourselves in English, while they anxiously waited for the translation in the Mossi language. They sang and danced forming a circle and their laughter became louder as we joined them.



Our 2nd destination took us to the Center for Young Girls run by the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. The center shelters 60 girls who seek to escape slavery and forced marriage, both of which still exist in Burkina Faso. Lois Heist was impressed by the courage of the teens, who often walked six hours to the center to seek refuge. Lois said, "I'm amazed that a girl that young might have the wherewithal and the instinct to take the situation into her own hands."

In Tougouri, we met beneficiaries of the Market Gardening Project funded by CRS Helping Hands. CRS provides capacity building skills and strategies to improve and market their harvest. Adriana Franco and I had the opportunity to visit the adobe hut of Zongo Odette, a 27-year-old wife and mother. Zongo cultivates onion and corn on her small portion of land. It was emotional for us as visitors and the host when she apologized for not having anything to offer us.

At the Ziniare gathering we were welcomed by beneficiaries of the Savings & Internal Lending Community (SILC). SILC members (pictured above) invest and borrow from their own funds and interest gained benefits all the members. At their town gathering, they seated us with the chief, governor and community elders. Reflecting on the amazing gathering we had, Levi Keene said, "it was encouraging to hear the profound thanks coming from Christians, Animists and Muslims alike. The event was a beautiful witness to the CRS model: We are all made in the image of God, therefore serve all of humanity as though we are serving God himself."

At another CRS site, the delegates met Adama, who was determined to see her six children educated. Although herself illiterate, she was especially proud that her oldest son will be going to high school. Adama will be featured by CRS in next year's Rice Bowl campaign.

News from CRS Regional Offices, Cont'd.

CRS Northeast-MidAtlantic News

Diocese of Burlington Holds First Ecological Justice Conference

On September 30th, the Diocese of Burlington wrapped up their Year of Creation with their first Action for Ecological Justice Conference held at Saint Michael's College. The conference featured Dr. Carolyn Woo, former President of CRS. The conference also featured workshops sponsored by CRS: Elias Bakhsh and Mari Barboza discussed Access to Water for the Poor Globally; Mary O'Brien and Peter Buck discussed Ethical Consumption; and Chris West presented on Community Organizing. Please see the attached article: <http://www.vermontcatholic.org/vcm/index.php/categories/diocesan/908-action-for-ecological-justice-conference>

Archdiocese of Hartford Recognizes Hispanic Ministry Leaders

In 2015, the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry took on the challenge of reaching out to the Hispanic community and invited them to be missionary disciples. Led by Arturo Iriarte from the Office of Catholic Social Justice Ministry, they formed a team of leaders from the Hispanic community and reached out to parishes with large Hispanic presence to participate in CRS Rice Bowl. As a result, 7 new parishes got involved in the program and contributions doubled in a year. On September 24th during their annual Social Justice dinner, CRS recognized the Archdiocese of Hartford's efforts to reach out to the Hispanic community and build leadership. Mari Barboza from CRS recognized Hispanic leaders Ana Landskron, Oscar Cirio, Noe Charles, Consuelo Gómez, Claribel Tejeda and Dolores Ramírez. "Your efforts to stand with the poor and vulnerable around the world have made a difference in many lives and have helped our faithful to live their commitment to being missionary disciples."

Submitted by Mari Barboza



Archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia - [Faith leaders welcome refugees with open arms](#)
 Archdiocese of Boston - [Social Justice Convocation discusses themes of refugees and migrants](#)
 Archdiocese of San Francisco, California - [CRS offers 'ethical trade' catalogue for Christmas giving](#)
 Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico - <https://issuu.com/officialasf/docs/2017nov> (Pages 24 and 25)
 Diocese of San Jose, California - [Catholic Charities Assists Catholic Relief Services with Disaster Recovery Support for Survivors of Deadly Mexico Earthquakes](#)
 EWTN's Nuestra Fe en Vivo con Pepe Alonso - [Vivi Iglesias of the CRS Southeast Team was recently interviewed](#). (Please share with your Spanish speaking colleagues and partners.)
 Mount Saint Mary College - [Mount hosts Catholic Relief Services training for area students](#)
 Tufts College - [Tufts alum Sean Callahan, head of Catholic Relief Services, describes how religion aids humanitarian efforts](#)

CONTACT US

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

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6



On behalf of the global CRS family, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Hispanic Heritage Awards

Inaugural Hispanic Heritage Month Diocesan Partner Award Recipients

CRS would like to congratulate the following ministry leaders on the Inaugural Hispanic Heritage Month Diocesan Partner Award Recipients:

- ◇ Deacon Guillermo Torres – Diocese of Orange
- ◇ Estela Villagrán-Manancero – National Association of Diocesan Directors for Hispanic Ministry and Archdiocese of St Paul and Minneapolis.
- ◇ Rocío González – Archdiocese of Santa Fe
- ◇ Sabrina Burton Schultz – Diocese of St. Petersburg
- ◇ Arturo Iriarte – Archdiocese of Hartford
- ◇ Kayla Jacobs – Diocese of Joliet

Please read below to learn more about the honorees or check out this link with content in Spanish - <http://www.crsespanol.org/catholic-relief-services-entrega-premio-herencia-hispana-a-socios-ministerio-hispano/>



Deacon Guillermo Torres



Estela Villagrán-Manancero



Rocío González



Sabrina Burton Schultz



Arturo Iriarte



Kayla Jacobs

Deacon Guillermo Torres is the Director of Hispanic Ministry. For nearly 10 years, Dcn. Torres creates awareness on global solidarity and has engaged more than 5,000 Hispanics in global action through CRS. He has built a strong relationship with the Lay Apostolic Movements promoting global solidarity and shares stories from his 2010 delegation experience to Burkina Faso and Ghana.

Estela Villagrán-Manancero is the Archdiocesan Director of the Office for Hispanic Ministry and President of the National Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors of Hispanic Ministry (NCADDHM). Estela was part of the 2010 CRS delegation to Burkina Faso and Ghana. Estela and the Board of NCADDHM have ensured the mission and programs of CRS are included in all new member orientations.

Rocío González is the Archdiocesan Director of Hispanic Ministry and Co-Chair for Diocesan and Episcopal Region XIII's V *Encuentro Team*. Rocío is a resilient partner, carrying and promoting the CRS mission throughout the Archdiocese in collaboration with other archdiocesan, parish and *Movimiento Familiar Cristiano* leaders. Her recent travels with CRS to Tanzania provided her with personal encounters to enhance her message about CRS.

Sabrina Burton Schultz is the Director of Life Ministry and CRS Diocesan Director. Sabrina serves the poor and marginalized locally and globally, while inspiring and accompanying the Hispanic community. Sabrina continues to teach on the need for a just and comprehensive immigration reform and encourages others to participate in activities that promote Catholic Social Teaching.

Arturo Iriarte is the Parish Social Ministry Coordinator for Hispanics. Arturo embraces the message of global solidarity and integrates it into his outreach to Hispanics. He is collaborating with CRS and Equal Exchange on a pilot project to raise awareness about ethical trade and global solidarity. Arturo has worked with CRS giving presentations on Hispanic Ministry during CRS regional and national meetings.

Kayla Jacobs is the Justice and Peace Coordinator for the Office of Human Dignity. Kayla plays a fundamental role in the development of outreach plans to parishes with a significant Hispanic presence. She collaborates with CRS and the Hispanic Ministry Office in her diocese to highlight global solidarity as part of the diocesan formation curriculum, ensuring diocesan workshops are bilingual and welcoming to Spanish monolinguals.

Join me in thanking them for their partnership.

Submitted by Michael Trujillo

CRS Programs and Resources Unit



Put ethically produced gifts on your list.
With every purchase, a donation goes to
CRS – for twice the impact!

Put Christmas back in your shopping, with ethically produced gifts that uplift a world of people. Every partner is vetted for fair wages, safer working conditions and environmentally sustainable practices. Shop the [Ethical Trade Holiday Gift Guide](#) or use the corresponding print version of Holiday Gift Guide flyer/bulletin (right).

[Pdf version available here](#)



CRS Holiday Gift Guide

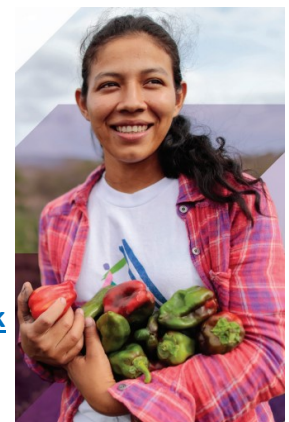


This Christmas, uplift your world.
Shop for gifts that support workers, the environment and CRS.

SHOP THE FULL GUIDE AT: ethicaltrade.crs.org/holidayguide

encounter
Lent COMPANIONS ON
THE JOURNEY

We are called to love our neighbor, but we may find ourselves wondering, “Who is my neighbor?” This Lent, **CRS Rice Bowl** will help us answer that question. Join nearly 14,000 faith communities in 180 dioceses around the U.S. in prayer, fasting and almsgiving this Lent. Together, we will serve our brothers and sisters most in need around the world while forming families and faith communities in global solidarity. [Click here](#) for the most recent **Rice Bowl** newsletter.



CRS Resources

Advent and Christmas 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.)**



Prayers

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



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)**



Advent Meditation: The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary

These reflections for Advent on each of the Joyful Mysteries include a story of refugees today in the Middle East, where the Holy Family was from.

Missionary Discipleship Through the Lens of Catholic Social Teaching Webinar Series

Take a spiritual journey this upcoming liturgical year and explore the call of the catechist to be a missionary disciple. For the seasons of Advent, Lent, and Easter, NCCL, NFCYM, NCEA, and CRS will accompany catechists in unpacking Catholic Social Teaching and its direct link to the Baptismal call of missionary discipleship.

January 25th 4pm EST

Value and Quality to All Life – Beth Knobbe (CRS)

Session 2 will have a focus on Rights and Responsibilities, Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable and the Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/9063566103213023233>

March 22nd 4pm EST

Called to Protect our Human Family and the Earth - Sergio Lopez (CRS)

Session 3 will have a focus on Solidarity and Care for God's Creation. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/7005531024667497729>