

# PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

*You Matter to CRS*

U.S. Operations Division



February/March 2018

Volume 16, Issue 1

## Global Emergency Update for February



[Click here to view the  
Global Emergency Update for  
February 2018](#)

## Reminder: CRS Collection on March 10-11

On the weekend of March 11, most dioceses will take up the USCCB-managed Catholic Relief Services Collection with its theme of **Helping Jesus in disguise**. This collection funds the core mission of CRS and five other Catholic agencies that support our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Your parishes will automatically receive packets of collection materials. However, please remind them about online resources including web ads, sample social media posts and bulletin inserts in English and Spanish. (Note: CRS also has this flyer to explain the difference between this Collection and the CRS Rice Bowl Lenten program.)



Thank you for your support!  
[uscgb.org/crscollection](http://uscgb.org/crscollection)

## Help Us Celebrate 75 Years



The CRS family has a lot to celebrate in 2018. As we reflect on the blessings of 75 years, we are grateful for your partnership and your commitment to people in most need.

That's why we want to share a new website we've created to celebrate our shared history and honor the people—our partners, our donors, our staff and our program participants—who have made it all possible. We call it *The Story of Us*. Please visit, share and subscribe at [75.crs.org](http://75.crs.org).



Every month, we will feature new stories about our past, what's going on in the here and now, and what that means to our future. There are videos, photo galleries, and an interactive timeline. For February, we share the themes of love and Lent, including the history of CRS Rice Bowl.

We've also launched a monthly podcast series, Behind the Story. Like CRS, it all begins in the 1940s with *The Tale of Two Cities*, including a very emotional interview with a Polish refugee who was part of our first project in Santa Rosa, Mexico, and the story of the B-25 bomber that crashed into CRS headquarters at the Empire State Building in New York. Thank you for being a part of CRS history—and our future!

Help us celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup>—check out the *Story of Us* at [75.crs.org](http://75.crs.org)

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#### CRS Diocesan Director, Anne Healy Ayella Receives Benemerenti Medal

Pope Francis presented papal awards to 28 women and men in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The honorees, “have performed some exceptional service for the church or offered some form of outstanding Christian witness in a generous and sustained way – in education, philanthropy, diaconal and religious life, prolife and vocations work, social ministry and other apostolates” quoted by Archbishop Chaput. Archbishop Chaput presented the honors in a Vespers Service on January 21<sup>st</sup> at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, PA. CRS Diocesan Director, Anne Healy Ayella was honored with the Benemerenti Medal. Anne worked in the Nutritional Development Services for the Archdiocese for many years, retiring last year. Here is a picture of Anne receiving her medal: **CRS Diocesan Director, Anne Healy Ayella receives Benemerenti Medal**



Photo taken by CatholicPhilly.com

#### A Message of Gratitude and Hope from Burkina Faso

by Mari Barboza, CRS Northeast/Mid-Atlantic

I spent the last week in January visiting schools, parishes and universities with my colleague Jacques Kabore from CRS Burkina Faso. We visited the Dioceses of Albany, NY, Burlington, VT and Manchester, NH and drove a lot of miles, but this visit, even though it was intense, it gave me hope. When people, especially the youth in the U.S. learn about the realities



Photo by Mari Barboza

around the world they want to help make a difference. Jacques eloquently depicted the harsh realities a great number of people in his country face and thanked the U.S. community for the support we have provided over the years.

Rice Memorial, one of our Global High schools posted this message on their Facebook page: “Mr. Jacques Kabore, Catholic Relief Services speaker from Burkina Faso, joined us this morning to speak about how the annual Lenten Rice bowl initiative, and events like the Helping Hands meal packing, help the communities in his home country. He shared with us how through our donations, CRS is helping farmers, businesses, children, and women in his country. He encouraged us to give to those in need and to be grateful for what we have. Thank you Mr. Kabore for sharing your passion, joy, and faith with us at Rice!”

## News from CRS Regional Offices

### CRS Southeast Regional News

#### Nine CRS Global High Schools Honored in Southeast Region

On January 12th, during the Go! Conference in New Orleans, Catholic Relief Services and the Office of Justice and Peace hosted a luncheon to honor the nine Catholic high schools in the area that are CRS Global High School participants. It was a time for fellowship and sharing of best practices, as well as celebrating the 75th anniversary of CRS. Most notably, attendees were able to hear from Dr. Kristin Witte, the Manager of Catholic Educational Engagement for CRS. She shared about upcoming opportunities and resources for CRS Global High Schools, listened to suggestions, and simply thanked the schools for all they do to form young missionary disciples. The lunch was brief but full of eager and hard-working educators who believe that promoting Catholic Social Teaching and an understanding of the Universality of Church through prayer, education, and action are essential to the Catholic identity of their schools.

### CRS Midwest Regional News

#### CRS Cultivates Global Solidarity in Belleville Diocese

by Cheryl Sommer, CBI Animator in the Diocese of Belleville

Solidarity with one another is truly in the DNA of Catholics in the largely rural Diocese of Belleville, IL. If a neighbor down the road gets cancer, the whole community gets to work on fundraisers to pay for treatment. They jump in with meals, care for the kids and help, however they can to get the family through the crisis. If you suggest that their actions are somewhat amazing, you'll get a comment like, "It's no big deal. It's what we do."

Through assistance from the CRS Midwest Regional Office and an eventual Capacity Building Grant from CRS in 2017, Catholics in the Belleville Diocese are learning and acting on our Catholic teaching that loving one's neighbor also has a global dimension

Belleville is a diocese with limited financial resources and a bare bones diocesan staff. On their own, a few parishes offered the JustFaith program. After completing JustFaith, Myrt Rollins from the tiny village of St. Rose contacted the CRS Midwest office asking for help in increasing global solidarity awareness in the diocese. He put together a group of 7 JustFaith graduates to form a CRS Diocesan Global Solidarity Team. They started meeting monthly, with the guidance of the CRS Midwest Office.

The efforts of this small group of committed Catholics yielded significant fruits. They were able to elicit the assistance of CRS parish representatives in 35 of the diocese's 108 parishes. Calls by the team to all 108 parishes led to parishes actively promoting CRS Rice Bowl. After just two years of efforts CRS Rice Bowl contributions more than doubled from \$13,433 to \$30,772. CRS Ethical Trade sales also began springing up in 6 parishes by 2016.

Zeal for global solidarity grew in 2017 when the diocese received a 3-year CRS Capacity-Building Grant of \$6000 a year. This enabled them to pay a stipend to Diocesan Solidarity Team member, Cheryl Sommer, to work a few hours weekly to magnify team efforts.

At the urging of CRS staff, Sommer coordinated a three-day listening campaign in the diocese. CRS staff, Rollins, and Sommer conducted 54 one-on-one interviews with priests, diocesan staff, and parishioners in the diocese. The interviews unearthed new interest in global solidarity and established many relationships for future work. One initiative already in progress is that of building on the strong agricultural focus in the diocese. A meeting is planned with farmers and other Catholics to explore the possibility of relationships with farmers in developing countries. This is already happening through the CRS Foods Resource Bank initiative and there are hopes to begin engagement with the CRS Farmer to Farmer program.

The Capacity-Building Grant also gave the diocese a significant amount of assistance from CRS. [click here to continue](#).



Live your faith.  
Consume with your  
conscience.

“Our faith asks us to respect the dignity of work, God’s people and His creation. Understanding the impact of our purchases and consumption helps ensure our choices don’t harm others or the environment.”

Karen Kasmauski for  
CRS

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



ETHICAL  
TRADE

### Ethical Trade Valentine’s Day Giveaway!

Enter for a chance to win this bundle of ethically made products.

[Enter Here](#)



Are you ready to encounter Lent? Check out the [January/February CRS Rice Bowl Newsletter](#) to learn about some great new resources—and to discover how CRS Rice Bowl is taking the *Share the Journey* campaign to the next level this Lent.



[Click here for more information](#)

### Checkout CRS’ YouTube Channel



# SALT Summit 2018

STUDENT AMBASSADOR LEADERS TOGETHER

CRS & our National Advisory Council invite you to

SAVE THE DATE

SALT Summit 2018

Will your campus be represented at the **CRS SALT Summit 2018**? Be sure to [apply for a spot](#) for your campus delegation before the **priority deadline of February 28**.

- A [one-pager](#) is available on the CRS University [website](#) with more information about who should apply, logistical details, and what to expect.
- CRS SALT Summit is free to attend. Lodging and most meals will be provided. Campus delegations are asked to cover their own transportation to Loyola University Maryland on July 15 and from Capitol Hill or Loyola University Maryland on July 18 as well as a couple of on-your-own meals.
- Our maximum capacity is 200 individuals, so be sure to apply early to secure your campus's spot. Applications are accepted for campus delegations as a whole, rather than for individuals, so please communicate internally with others on campus and coordinate your application accordingly.

[apply now >>](#)

Please note: Campus delegations are comprised of 2 students and 1 staff person. Exceptions to this will be considered on a case-by-case basis. After the February 28 priority deadline, there may be an opportunity to apply to bring additional representatives from your campus for a fee, on a first come, first serve basis. Periodically check the CRS University [website](#) for additional information.

## Human Trafficking - 2018-2019 Theme for the Faculty Learning Commons

Our CRS University Engagement team is pleased to share with you that our 2018-2019 theme for the Faculty Learning Commons will be **Human Trafficking**. We are thrilled to be working in partnership with Christine Cervenak, J.D. from the Center for Human and Civil Rights at the University of Notre Dame as we put the finishing touches on the full modules, which will be available later this spring.



In the meantime, we invite you to [read more background information](#), consider integration of this theme into your syllabi and other curricula in 2018-2019, and share with other faculty and educators who may also be interested.

Please note that, while the resources are part of the Faculty Learning Commons, we hope that all individuals and communities looking to learn more about the topic feel welcome to participate. Email [university@crs.org](mailto:university@crs.org) with any questions.

## Advocacy News

### Nourishing Change

CATHOLICS

CONFRONT

GLOBAL

POVERTY

Over 50 partners in the Southeast region gathered in Atlanta on January 18<sup>th</sup> to attend an advocacy training on the Farm Bill and other hunger and nutrition related policy. Participants, spanning offices and ministries in dioceses across the region, gathered to hear policy experts from CCUSA and CRS speak about the U.S. Church's policy related to the Farm Bill, and how they could plan key advocacy actions to support those most vulnerable around the world and here in the United States.

Catholics Confront Global Poverty will be launching a new campaign to combat hunger, called Nourishing Changes, so keep an eye out for how you can take action and promote the campaign in your diocese!



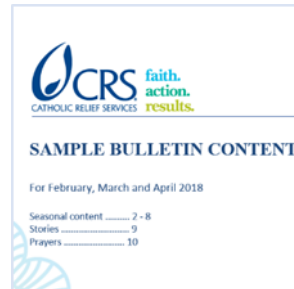
The **CRS Resource Center** (<http://www.crs.org/get-involved/resource-center>) offers an array of resources suitable for all ages to form disciples to live out Christ's call to care for the poor and vulnerable everywhere.

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



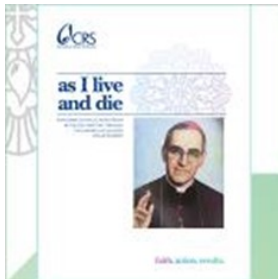
### **Lenten prayers**

See this list of prayers connected to Lenten themes



### **Sample Bulletin Content**

Sample bulletin inserts for February, March, and April 2018 which include seasonal content, stories, and prayers



### **Celebrating Blessed Oscar Romero**

March 24 is the Feast of Blessed Oscar Romero. These resources commemorate his life and martyrdom and can help communities of faith reflect on what his witness means for our



### **National V Encuentro:**

#### **Resources for Forming Missionary Disciples**

As regional Encuentros take place across the country, be sure to check out this list of concrete ways ministry leaders can help form missionary disciples who reach out to the peripheries



### **CST 101: Videos, Discussion Guides, Handouts and Posters**

CRS and the USCCB has launched a package of resources about Catholic Social Teaching. These can all be downloaded from [crs.org/cst-101](http://crs.org/cst-101).

### **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).