April 25th—World Malaria Day

Malaria deaths have been reduced by 60% over the past 15 years, yet this disease remains one of the largest killers of children in Africa. It’s time to do more. We can prevent malaria. We can treat it. Catholic Relief Services is out to crush malaria in Niger, where the disease is responsible for a third of all deaths. It’s especially deadly for children under 5. Backed by decades of experience in malaria prevention and treatment, CRS is going to treat 1 million Nigerien children with preventive medication. This treatment, known as seasonal malarial chemoprevention, can be administered by community health workers and costs just $5 per child. Our goal is to drastically reduce the number of cases among children. Click here to view the CRS Crush Malaria video.

75 years of doing the impossible. Help us celebrate at 75.crs.org

We know what impossible looks like. It looks like 700,000 people receiving HIV care and treatment. It looks like the distribution of over 1 million bed nets in the Gambia to protect the ENTIRE country from malaria.

For 75 years, CRS has been told what couldn’t be done. Like stemming the tide of HIV and ending malaria. But when we work together, the possibilities are endless. The once impossible begins to look like a healthy family living and thriving with adequate health care and a bright future. This month, our featured stories commemorating our 75th anniversary invite you to marvel at the challenges we’re meeting head-on, while celebrating our success in bringing possibility to people all over the world.

Then, you are going to want some pasta and to curl in front of the TV after listening to our monthly podcast series, Behind the Story. We’ll introduce you to the Maryknoll “Noodle Priest” of Hong Kong, who made a machine that fed 400,000 Chinese refugee children in the 1950s—and who just happened to be a fan favorite on 1960s TV. This podcast is filled with great music and stories, plus the belief that any problem can be solved with a little humor and some ingenuity. After all, we believe nothing is impossible!

Looking ahead, in May, we are proud to honor the women who inspire us, including St. Teresa who had a special relationship with CRS.

Every day, we count our blessings to have you by our side as we celebrate 75 years of working together in partnership for the most vulnerable among us. Our website, 75.crs.org, celebrates our shared history and honors the people behind CRS—our partners, our donors, our staff and our program participants. Thank you for making the impossible possible. We can’t do it without you.
News from CRS Regional Offices

CRS Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Region News

A Time for Encounter, Tiempo de Encuentro by Mari Barboza

The Encuentro process is a four-year consultation process for the Church in the United States to reflect on our response to the presence of the Hispanic community. CRS has accompanied this process from the beginning as a Padrino sponsor. We attended the diocesan Encuentros in Rockville Center, Boston, Norwich, Baltimore, New York, Metuchen and Philadelphia. As a result of our collaboration, regional events will include Missionary Advocacy Actions, inviting participants to raise their voices in support of migrants and refugees.

For CRS, this process has been a time to grow in our understanding the realities, challenges and gifts of the Hispanic community and to develop relationships with leaders. At the New England gathering, Danielle Corea, a member of our team said: “The lessons from this process have enriched me greatly and will be a part of me throughout my life-long ministry. Here, I feel renewal. Here, I have hope for a very bright future for our Church and for an unshakeable faith to pass to the next generation.”

Please contact our regional office if you want more information on this exciting process. Here are the upcoming gatherings in our region:

- April 28, 2018 Region III Encuentro (New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware) in Trenton, NJ
- May 12, 2018, Region I Encuentro (New England) in Hartford, CT
- May 19, 2018: Region IV Encuentro (Virginia, Maryland, Washington DC, West Virginia, Archdiocese of Military Services) in Washington DC
- June 22-24, 2018 Region II Encuentro (New York State) in Albany, NY

Humanity is Unskippable | Catholic Relief Services

Humanity is unskippable for Catholic Relief Services. Learn about how CRS helps transform the world and watch what happens when you put humanity first. https://www.unskippable.org/
CRS and CCUSA Conduct Advocacy Training on Farm Bill in Sacramento
by Ken Preston, CRS West Region

CRS and Catholic Charities USA teamed up to conduct a Two-Day Advocacy Convening in Sacramento, CA on February 26-27, 2018, one of three such trainings with the other two in Atlanta and Kansas City. The trainings were funded by a Caritas Internationalis grant with the goal of building the church’s capacity for advocacy on Farm Bill and hunger-related issues. For the Sacramento training, CRS engaged approximately 50 partners across the West Region to participate, while CCUSA added about 25 participants. CRS’s partners represented more than one dozen dioceses in the west region. Participants left the gathering with action plans in advocacy for their diocese, and to take action every 3 months personally with their Member of Congress. Participants have already promoted several advocacy activities in their respective dioceses, including one diocese which recently held an advocacy training for 25 people to advocate on the Farm Bill.

V Encuentro Participants in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Give a Voice to the Nation’s Dreamers

On Tuesday, January 6th, leaders from the nation’s largest Archdiocese visited Washington, D.C., to give a voice to the more than 800,000 dreamers whose fates rest in the hands of the country’s lawmakers. The visit took place during the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, which brings hundreds of Catholics representing dioceses and Catholic social agencies from around the United States to the nation’s capital for a week of prayer, learning, reflection, and action. At the end of the California delegation’s meetings with Senator Feinstein’s and Senator Harris’ offices, representatives from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles delivered nearly 800 letters signed by Catholics leaders who participated in the Archdiocesan V Encuentro event on Saturday, January 27th. “People are anxious about the realities facing our sisters and brothers on the peripheries and are hungry for practical ways to help them,” says Ernesto Vega, Chair of the V Encuentro Process for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. The letter signing campaign, which also asked lawmakers to address the root causes of migration by preserving funding for humanitarian international assistance, was part of the “Missionary Action” that took place during the Archdiocese’s Encuentro and was organized in collaboration with Catholic Relief Services, the Office of Religious Education, the Office of Immigration Affairs, and the Office of Life, Justice, and Peace of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Representatives from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles deliver nearly 400 letters to the legislative staff of Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA). (From left to right: Mr. Chris Gaspar - Foreign Policy Advisor for Senator Feinstein, Ms. Kathleen Domingo - Director of the Office of Life, Justice, and Peace of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Mr. Sergio Lopez - Relationship Manager for Catholic Relief Services, and Mr. Isaac Cuevas - Director of the Office of Immigration Affairs of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles)
CRS hosted Thomas Awiapo from Ghana in Chicago for Lenten Speaker Tour

One of the highlights of Thomas Awiapo’s visit was his talk at Regina Dominican High School in Wilmette, IL, which is located in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Thomas Awiapo Inspires Students at Regina Dominican High School

“Out of my four years at Regina, I have been to well over a dozen speakers. Thomas was the best speaker I have ever had the privilege of listening to. He truly embodied the Regina Dominican charism of loving others selflessly. He gave us a real-life example of how something as simple as the Rice Bowl can save someone’s life. We may hear this every Lenten season, but this put a face with the cause. It allowed us to be grateful for the things we own, as well as the things we did not know were so desired from other countries. I am very proud to say I go to Regina Dominican, and after hearing this speaker, I am even more proud to say that I go to a school that empowers women to achieve global leadership through examples of successful men and women equally.” Murphy Weiland, Regina Dominican High School, Class of 2018.

CRS Midwest Regional News

Around Our World

Seventy-five years of service to others,
Greeting smiles, hugs and tears of our sisters and brother,
From abundance to poverty
Flowing from hearts filled with love,
Heavens graces shared
On the wings of a dove
Oh the many served
Through a well stretched penny,
Once a Carefully Reserved Secret
Now cares for the many
Bore holes provide water,
Clinics cure ills,
To willing minds
Education fills
Our naked are clothed,
Our hungry are fed,
Once sleeping on dirt
May now have a bed
Open the gates,
Disregard the fences,
A mission of love
Ignores the expenses
Far from the cross
Unrestricted love does flow,
As around our world
CRS does glow
~

By: Al Drinkwine, CRS Parish Ambassador

CONTACT US
· CRS Regional Offices
· Email: resources@crs.org
· U.S. Operations Call Center at 1-866-608-5978

CRS U.S. Church Engagement
Thank you.

The Easter Season is here—and with it, a time of gratitude. We have resources to express our gratitude to all those who participated in CRS Rice Bowl this Lent. Check them out in the April/May CRS Rice Bowl Newsletter and view Easter Joy: A Thank You Video and much more in the newsletter.

Advocacy News

You can take steps to prevent and end global hunger.

How? Right now, Congress is deliberating about the international food security programs authorized in the Farm Bill, and you can help protect them and ensure they are funded.

These essential programs provide lifesaving emergency assistance and an opportunity for our most vulnerable brothers and sisters to lead healthy and dignified lives. They help communities in poverty grow more of the food they need, conserve natural resources and transform landscapes, and support literacy and education through school lunches.

Please remember the World Day of Prayer to End Famine, May 21

CRS Program and Resources News

Celebrating the 7 With St. Vincent de Paul, PA.

By Stephanie Bosse

Back in 2015 when the United States hosted Pope Francis’ visit to the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, St. Vincent de Paul’s Eucharistic Minister, Norma Yabut felt that her experience packaging CRS Helping Hands meals at that event was redeeming. Soon after she vowed to bring the program to her parish and has been...READ MORE

If you are interested in bringing a Helping Hands meal packaging event to your community checkout the Helping Hands website located at http://helpinghands.crs.org/about-us/ or email Rachael Holmes at Rachael.Holmes@crs.org.
As you plan for the pastoral year, be sure to check out our calendar of resources for ministry!

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**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.

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**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.

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**Checkout CRS’ YouTube Channel**

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**CONTACT US**

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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. Church Engagement Call Center at 1-866-608-5978 or email: resources@crs.org.