



Partnership Newsletter

You Matter to CRS | U.S. Church Engagement Division



August/September 2018 | VOLUME 16 ISSUE 4

CRS RICE BOWL NEWS

The Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl team is hard at work developing and designing resources to accompany your upcoming Lenten journey. For our final year of our Encounter Lent campaign, we're **featuring stories** from Guatemala, Uganda, Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone and Gaza. Get a sneak peek at **our story from Sierra Leone**, learn why **our work in Gaza** is so important (**available in Spanish**, too!) and **hear from one of our Global Fellows** on how easy it is to implement CRS Rice Bowl in your community. Questions? Contact us at crsricebowl@crs.org.



You know we love our partners. But we know we couldn't be who we are without partners like you. Relief is our middle name, but we don't provide that relief alone.

Catholic Relief Services was founded 75 years ago in response to the tragedy of World War II. In our **Behind the Story podcast** series, we take a look at how CRS' emergency response has changed over time, and how we continue to learn and grow in the work we do. This time of year is usually quite active for us as we respond to emergencies around the world, but did you know we are also preparing for the unknown disaster that may be right around the corner? Take a listen to our podcast, **A Diamond in the Rubble**, to hear some tricks of the trade and about how we can help others even before a disaster happens.

Later this month, we will celebrate World Humanitarian Day together. Thank you for working with us every day by embracing and celebrating our shared humanity despite challenging circumstances.

CRS Fact Sheets

- **Change the Way We Care-How CRS is working to deinstitutionalize orphans and other vulnerable children**

In This Issue

- CRS 75th Anniversary-by Rebekah Lemke, CRS
- CRS Rice Bowl News-Eric Clayton, CRS

News from CRS Southeast

- Mtsebo's Voice, One of Millions-by Vivi Iglesias, CRS

CRS Partnership, Training and Engagement News.

- CRS Diocesan Director's Orientation-Katy Coldwell, CRS
- A Reflection on the DD Orientation-Mr. Steve Macy, Diocese of Austin
- A Reflection on the DD Orientation-Ms. Patrice Swick, Diocese of Erie
- Upcoming Partner Events

CRS Programs & Resources News

- New CRS/NCCW Water for Life Video
- CRS Stories/Resources
- CRS YouTube Videos

Mtsebo's Voice, One of Millions!

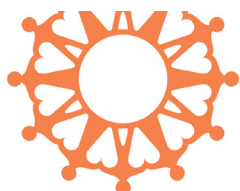
Arriving to this little kingdom of Lesotho was a long-awaited journey. As the months changed to days and the days to just hours, I prepared with enthusiasm and hesitation for my first delegation trip as a CRS Employee. I traveled with my colleague, Mikaele, and a Seminary Delegation that included three faculty priests from different seminaries, Father Keith, Father Brian and Father Mark, and three wonderful seminarians in their second year of Theology, Derek, Caleb and Alex. We were ready! Our principal focus was encountering and listening to the voices of those we serve. We were prepared to see the challenges and wondered how the Gospel was made real in the programs that CRS offered. We wanted to grow closer to God in the simplicity of the experience of seeing, listening, accompanying, and just being there as the good Samaritan did.

We left Baltimore for a 19-hour trip that concluded with a small plane ride. From my window seat, I could see the beautiful and enchanting mountains of Lesotho. They welcomed us with majestic colors and a peaceful beauty, a canvas that reflected the reality of its people. The airport was very small, the runway was ornate by the fields of tall dry corn and yellowing grasses affected by the winter weather already approaching. No buildings, or signs of much development around except the small customs building at the end of the runway. "Welcome Mae! Welcome Datè!" everyone greeted us with joy as we deplaned from the small stairs. Erica Dahl-Bredine, Country Representative, met us at the airport with two very courteous drivers. On the way to our first stop, Erica began to explain the work of CRS Lesotho, demographics, and some of the programming that CRS is doing in the area.



CRS delegation to Lesotho pose with girl participants in the CRS and Dreams program. Photo credit: CRS Staff

CRS Lesotho is comprised of just over 60 employees, all very dedicated and welcoming. The schedule was packed of great experiences and during the days that followed our arrival Erica and her staff assisted us as we traveled to several villages near and far. We were able to see great programs that included SILC groups (Savings and Internal Lending Cooperatives) models, key hole gardens, agricultural & environmental projects, and efforts to restore grace lands and water sheds. We heard firsthand how the work of CRS, the Catholic Church of the United States, has had an incredible effect in the lives of the Basuto people and how CRS has helped with the improvement of the life of these communities. Programs that improve childcare and nutrition, others that offer AIDS prevention, education and treatment. ([Click here to read the complete article](#), Mtsebo's Voice, One of Millions! online)



Share the Journey 
#sharejourney



CRS Diocesan Director Orientation Highlights

The 2018 CRS Diocesan Director Orientation took place from June 11-14 at CRS Global Headquarters in Baltimore, MD. Throughout the three days, twenty-four Diocesan Directors from across the United States gained deeper knowledge of CRS, including the priorities of U.S. Church Engagement and their role as a CRS Diocesan Director. Diocesan Directors also developed annual plans for engaging their dioceses in CRS' work, particularly Advocacy and Charitable Giving. The orientation also allowed Diocesan Directors to share experiences and best practices, inspiring one another to take ownership of CRS' mission.

Reflections on the Diocesan Director Orientation

A Reflection from Mr. Steve Macy with the Diocese of Austin:

My name is Steve Macy and I had the privilege of attending the CRS Diocesan Directors Orientation in June 2018. As a former businessman, I wanted to comment first on the professionalism and competency of the staff in Baltimore and throughout the regions- the meeting was terrific!

During the four days I was there, there were three themes that stood out to me from the meeting and presentations:

1. The staff and everyone else at CRS is dedicated to their job and the mission of CRS. Global Solidarity is not a mantra but is something we are ALL called to live each day. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers.
2. We save lives. How empowering it is to realize that each of our small contributions to the efforts of CRS and the Church actually enhances and saves lives? Not only is CRS on the ground in times of crises, but CRS is there to provide a hand up - not necessarily a hand out - through their many programs, including the Farmer to Farmer program that helps farmers become successful in agriculture and business. The humanitarian and development support CRS offers alleviates poverty. The programs are life giving.
3. We are an important arm of the Catholic Church. We Pray, Learn, Act, and Give- in that order. We gain our strength from prayer, make an effort to educate ourselves on the issues, act to make the world better and give as we can to help move CRS' efforts forward. Giving can be done through time, talents, treasures or a combination of all three.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to briefly describe the gifts that were given to me during my four short days at the CRS Diocesan Directors Orientation. Peace, Steve Macy

A Reflection from Ms. Patrice Swick with the Diocese of Erie:

"The CRS Diocesan Director Orientation allowed for a space of mini encounters. Whether it was putting a face to the name for CRS employees, encountering our global church through prayer, discovering a 'new to me' CRS initiative or program, or simply connecting with my fellow diocesan directors, God's presence was within it all. We each wear many hats, often simultaneously, and orientation allowed us to take a breath, if only for a moment, and breathe in a reminder of the power of solidarity and the necessity of the good work we are striving for in the unique way to which we each are called." Peace, Patrice

Upcoming Partner Events

- National Council of Catholic Women Convention, August 28th - September 1st, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Capacity Building Initiative End of Year Meeting, August 28th & 29th, Baltimore MD.
- CCUSA Annual Gathering, September 12th - 14th, Buffalo NY.



New Version of CRS/NCCW Water for Life Video is Now Available on CRS YouTube

The [Water for Life video](#) illustrates the work of Catholic Relief Services in partnership with the National Council of Catholic Women (www.nccw.org) in responding to the critical need for water projects in developing countries. [Learn more](#) about all the CRS/NCCW Works of Peace and Reconciliation programs.

Stories/Resources

[RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FOR ETHIOPIAN FARMERS](#) by Terhas Clark, CRS

[WATER ACCESS SHIFTS BALANCE OF GENDER POWER](#) by Terhas Clark, CRS

[WATER ACCESS IMPROVES LIVES, FARMS, INCOMES](#) by Colleen Hutchison, CRS

[THE TRANSFIGURATION: IMAGINING THE MOUNTAIN](#) by Genevieve Jordan Laskey, CRS

[SHARE THE JOURNEY: BE UNAFRAID TO SHARE YOUR FEARS](#)

CRS YouTube Videos

[The CRS Connection](#)

[CRS 75th Anniversary: CRS in 75 Words](#)

[75th Anniversary Podcast: A Diamond in the Rubble](#)

Find more videos on [our YouTube channel](#) or [click here](#)



Contact Us | CRS REGIONAL OFFICES

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Jacklyn Ireland, Communications Specialist for the U.S. Church Engagement 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.

