

PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

You Matter to CRS

U.S. Operations Division



March/April 2017

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CRS Responds to Hunger Crisis in East Africa

A persistent drought has left 23 million people across South Sudan, Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia without enough to eat. Compounded by conflict, famine has already been declared in part of South Sudan by the United Nations and is threatening other countries in the region. CRS is responding to this emergency with food aid, improved water access, health services and long-term recovery efforts.

Please help us raise awareness about this crisis in your community. Visit our [Ministry Resource Center](#) to find prayers, learn more about the hunger crisis, make a contribution and advocate for the U.S. government to respond to global hunger needs.



Uprooted by famine, new arrivals to a camp on the outskirts of Mogadishu, Somalia, line up for water. Photo by Mohamed Sheik Nor for CRS

As we move through this Lenten season, we are reminded that our prayers, fasting and almsgiving through [CRS Rice Bowl](#) are practical ways we can help strengthen communities around the world so they become more resilient to disasters like this. We are grateful for your attention to the immediate needs in East Africa and for your commitment to long-term development through CRS Rice Bowl.

'We respond to emergencies because we're a humanitarian organization, but we also understand that, at the end of the day, people deserve dignity and self-respect, and that requires an expanded approach.' —Jeff Farrell, CRS country

The [CRS Global Emergency Update Spring 2017](#) is now available. It offers the latest snapshot of Catholic Relief Services' ongoing emergency response around the world.

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Reminder: CRS Collection on March 25-26



Usccb.org/crscollection

On the weekend of March 25-26, most dioceses will be taking up the USCCB-managed Catholic Relief Services Collection with its theme of responding to **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. By now parishes should have received their packets of materials. 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!

CRS Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Region News

18 Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia become CRS Global High School Partners!

On February 2, 2017, all Diocesan Schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia were named CRS Global High Schools. A press conference was held to announce the news and was followed up by CRS Helping Hands meal packing of 50,000 meals by some 800 students from Global High Schools, Seminarians, and other Catholic school students. This partnership is the largest of its kind in the United States. CRS lesson plans and hands on activities dealing with issues of global poverty will be integrated into the curriculum for all grade levels at the 17 archdiocesan high schools and Mercy CTE High School. You may view a few pictures, a video of the Live stream of the press conference and CRS Helping Hands event here: <https://vimeo.com/catholicphilly/CRS>



Archbishop Charles Chaput works with students to fill bags of food during the Helping Hands activity Feb. 2 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. (Photo credit: D'Mont Reese-Catholicphilly.com)

CRS Southeast Region News

CRS CEO meets with Senate Majority Leader

On February 22, Sean Callahan, CRS' CEO, met with Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell, to discuss international assistance funding and its significance to the work of CRS in peacebuilding and providing safe and healthy environments for families, so that they do not have to migrate.

Sean told the audience during a Lenten fundraiser "We try to allow people not to have to migrate by providing economic opportunities in the communities in which they live. CRS' work is directly related to refugees." Callahan also noted that less than one percent of the U.S. federal budget is spent on foreign aid. But that funding is important to CRS' work. And he believes CRS' work is beneficial both to the U.S. and those receiving aid. Read the complete article in *The Record* <http://therecordnewspaper.org/crs-head-discusses-aid-mcconnell/>.

Archdiocese of Louisville 6th Annual Rice Bowl Kickoff

The Archdiocese of Louisville hosted their 6th Annual CRS Rice Bowl kickoff event at Sacred Heart Academy. Mark Bouchard, Parish Engagement Coordinator, organized the gathering which brought together students and faculty from Catholic schools, as well as refugees resettled by Catholic Charities. The event highlights global solidarity and CRS Rice Bowl.

Sean Callahan was the keynote speaker. He shared his experiences around the world and how it is important to "encounter" our neighbor. "Encounter is seeing 'the other' in a new way, a different way," he said. "The encounter is with Christ and we see Christ in all these people we work with. We see Christ in disguise." (The Record Newspaper). With "Encounter Lent" as the CRS Rice Bowl theme this year, the message asked people to consider their Lenten experience through the lens of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Archbishop Kurtz offered the introduction at the event, noting his encounters with CRS wherever he travels: "Pretty much wherever you go in the world, where dignity needs to be restored, you will find Catholic Relief Services." Read the complete article in *The Record* <http://therecordnewspaper.org/luncheon-launches-rice-bowl-campaign/>.

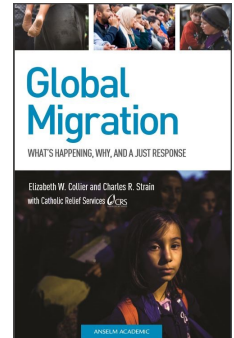


Photo Credit: Chris Martini, Catholic Charities Louisville

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UNIVERSITY
FACULTY LEARNING COMMONS



view **MIGRATION MODULE & BOOK** >

Our 2017-2018 Faculty Learning Commons [academic modules on Migration](#) will use this work as the anchor text. We are developing 5 distinct modules with supplemental resources, videos and discussion questions. We will be posting these to the site over the next few weeks. Course instructors considering a book for adoption can request a complimentary copy.

[You can sign up for the FLC modules and begin viewing the book at this link.](#)

GLOBAL MIGRATION BOOK OVERVIEW

At latest count, 244 million people--the highest number in history--reside in a nation in which they were not born. But migration is not a new phenomenon. *Global Migration: What's Happening, Why, and a Just Response* unpacks the complex issues surrounding modern migration, including the reasons people might need or choose to leave their country of origin, and the laws, treaties, and resources that dictate the opportunities of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people upon resettling. Using the *See, Judge, Act* method of reflection and action, this text goes beyond facts and stats, offering personal narratives, principles for critical thinking drawn from Catholic social teaching, and opportunities for action from the individual to the international level. Focused on the humanitarian work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) throughout the world, *Global Migration* inspires reflection, provokes discussion and empowers students to respond to today's greatest humanitarian crisis.

About the Authors

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To learn more about CRS University please visit <http://university.crs.org/about> .



view **MIGRATION MODULE & BOOK** >

“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](#).



The Power of the Cross: V Encuentro

This year V Encuentro will commission half a million ministry leaders with cross necklaces. But, they will not be your average crosses. These are ethically produced crosses from [CRS Ethical Trade partner Ethix Merch](#), and these crosses make an [impact](#). Because of their purchase, 30 full time workers are paid a living wage with benefits, and wood is sustainably and responsibly farmed. Even more, for every Catholic purchase made from Ethix Merch, CRS receives a donation to support workers around the world. The *conscious* decision made by V Encuentro to purchase these crosses has generated \$50,000 for CRS which in turn enables CRS to carry out new projects in Mexico, Palestine and Haiti.

The cross calls us to encounter one another on a daily basis to encounter Jesus in the world. Through this simple act of choosing an ethically produced cross, Catholics are changing the way purchases are made. To learn more about ethically produced products, visit the [CRS Ethical Shopping Guide](#).



National and regional leaders of V Encuentro wear ethically produced crosses from Catholic Relief Services Ethical Trade partner Ethix Merch.

Raise Your Voice for the Common Good using Social Media

Social media is a creative and easy way for you to put your faith into action. You can post, comment, retweet and like. You can also share messages, videos and photos to raise awareness and educate others about global poverty. And you can take action to shape policies that protect our poor and vulnerable brothers and sisters overseas. Join us on:

[CRS Facebook](#)

[USCCB Facebook](#)

[CRS Espanol](#)

CRS Twitter: [@CatholicRelief](#)

USCCB Twitter: [@USCCB](#)

Pinterest: [“Catholic Relief Services”](#)



Lent is Here!


Read the [March/April CRS Rice Bowl Newsletter](#) and get answers to your CRS Rice Bowl questions. The Lenten season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving has begun. However, it is not too late to receive more materials.






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!




Refugee Resources
Prayers, videos and activities related to the refugee crisis .



National V Encuentro: Resources for Forming Missionary Disciples
A list of concrete ways ministry leaders can help form missionary disciples who reach out to the peripheries



RCIA Session: Living Like Jesus
Lectionary-based catechesis for RCIA from Catholic Charities USA and CRS

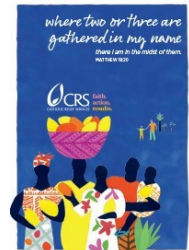


Celebrating Earth Day
Videos, activities and lessons about why and how Catholics care for God's creation

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.

Please contact the U.S. Operations Call Center at 1-866-608-5978 or email resources@crs.org if you wish to have a hard copy of the annual report.



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

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
- 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.