

In this Issue:

Please click on the story you wish to read below

- **CRS Global Snapshot**
- **What's Happening with Programs in the U.S.**
 - CRS Rice Bowl Newsletter*
 - Fair Trade—Fill Your Easter Basket with Fair Trade*
 - New Resource for the Easter Season*
 - CRS DD Reflects on the Impact of CRS Parish Ambassador Program in One Parish*
 - Helping Hands: Join the Movement*
- **Partnership Training and Engagement**
 - A Deacon's View: A Reflection on a Recent Global Fellows visit to the Balkans*
 - Check out the CRS Clergy Outreach site*
 - 2016 Annual CRS DD Meeting at CSMG Highlights*
- **News from CRS NE/Mid-Atlantic Regional Office**
 - Lecturer Expresses Hope for Syrian Refugees—The Loquitur*
 - CRS Rice Bowl Lenten Speaker Tour: Pascasie Musabyemungu*
- **News from CRS Midwest Regional Office**
 - Reflection from Haiti—Truth and Charity*
 - Good Shepherd Pantry helped by 25% proceeds from CRS Rice Bowl*
- **You Did it for Me**
- **CRS University**
 - CRS Student Ambassador Online Training*
 - Dear Climate Changers*
- **New CRS Resources**

CRS Global Snapshot



Catholic Relief Services teams and partners continue to provide comprehensive emergency relief to hundreds of thousands of people who have been uprooted due to conflict within their countries. This update provides the latest reports on this effort and many more around the world. [Please read more.](#)

CRS Diocesan Director Reflects on the Impact of the CRS Parish Ambassador Program in One Parish

By Kelly Ann Davis, MA, Dir. Catholic Commission of Lake/Geauga and CRS Diocesan Director for Diocese of Cleveland

When we started the Catholic Relief Services Parish Ambassador Core (PAC) program at Ss. Robert and William Parish in Euclid, Ohio (Diocese of Cleveland) I called and talked to Fr. Scott Goodfellow, who had been an active CRS Global Fellow. He agreed that the program would be a great addition to the ministries already taking place in his parish. Fr. Goodfellow



recruited five amazing women in the parish, and a couple who'd talked to him about getting more active in the parish, to come to our October retreat. The women came, not because they knew much about the workings of Catholic Relief Services. These wonderful ladies came because their priest invited them to come and told them that it would be worthwhile, and they were instantly hooked. [Click here to read the complete article.](#)

New CRS Resource for the Easter Season

CRS has [developed memes](#) for the Sundays from Easter through Pentecost that connect a line from the Scripture readings with images of people around the world. We hope that these will meet people where they are—on social media—and invite them to reflect on how the Scriptures have meaning in our modern, global community.

We will publish these memes weekly throughout the Easter Season on our CRS social media channels, but the [whole set of memes is also available online](#) in English and Spanish to be downloaded and used by others. We will be pairing these memes with the two hashtags #SundayScriptures and #LivingWord to highlight the way that Scripture comes alive in our world.

NEWS from the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Regional Office

Lecturer Expresses Hope for Syrian Refugees

Chandreyee Banerjee, regional development director of Catholic Relief Services gave the Founder's Day keynote address based on her first-hand experiences dealing with the Syrian Crisis in the Middle East and Europe. Her address was one of many lectures that took place during the Cabrini's Lenten Lecture Series on Immigration. In her address, Chandreyee shared details about her first impressions of being in the Middle East and working closely with the Syrian Crisis. Please read the details of Chandreyee's lecture in Cabrini's *The Loquitur* under the article titled "[*Founder's Day lecturer expresses hope for Syrian refugees.*](#)"

CRS Rice Bowl Lenten Speaker Tour: Pascasie Musabyemungu by Danielle Corea and Mari Barboza

Amahoro—peace for Rwanda and for America was the message of Pascasie Musabyemungu, CRS staff from Rwanda. She traveled throughout the northeastern region during the first week of March as part of the Catholic Relief Services Lenten speaker tour. Pascasie shared stories of peace and reconciliation from her home country and how the work of Catholic Relief Services has improved the lives of those in Rwanda. She explained the goals of the Small Income Lending Communities (SILC) and Women Building Peace Across Borders, which brings together 60 female traders from Burundi, Rwanda, and The Democratic Republic of the Congo. [Click here to read the entire article.](#)



NEWS from the Midwest Regional Office

Reflection from Haiti—*In Truth and Charity* by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

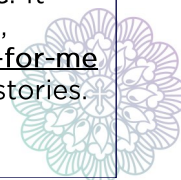
Bishop Kevin Rhoades (Fort Wayne-South Bend) is on the CRS Board, and he recently traveled with CRS to visit our partners in Haiti. The diocesan paper published an excellent 3-page spread with Bishop Rhoades' reflection on CRS' work, along with pictures! You can read his reflections here <http://www.todayscatholicnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/04haiti.pdf>

Good Shepherd Food Pantry is helped by 25% proceeds from CRS Rice Bowl.

In the Archdiocese of Indianapolis The Criterion Online Edition recently published a piece about their local 25% proceeds from Rice Bowl. Members of the 98 schools, parishes and organizations of the archdiocese who participated in the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl program last year would expect that their donations helped the needy in other countries. But Rice Bowl participants at Holy Trinity Parish in Edinburg probably didn't know they also helped the Good Shepherd Food Pantry in Terre Haute. You can read more here: <http://www.archindy.org/criterion/local/2016/02-19/ricebowl.html>

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 bulletinstories@crs.org.



PROGRAM AND RESOURCE UNIT NEWS

CRS RICE BOWL NEWS

Preparing for Holy Week!

Holy Week is one of the most sacred weeks of our liturgical year as Catholics. During Holy Week, we have an opportunity to not only walk with Jesus in his passion and suffering, but also in his resurrection. Go to the [CRS Rice Bowl Newsletter for March/April 2016](#) to find Holy Week resources and much more.



© Serrv

FAIR TRADE NEWS

Fill Your Easter Basket with Fair Trade

This Easter celebrate life by choosing fair trade. Fill your basket with gifts and chocolate from our partners [Serrv](#) and [Equal Exchange](#) and support artisans and farmers around the world.



Helping Hands: Join the Movement

CRS Helping Hands is a Catholic volunteer and formation event that allows participants to serve their brothers and sisters overseas in a tangible way. Rooted in the Eucharistic imperative to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world, participants work together to address hunger in both the short term and the long term. Here are two CRS Helping Hands resources: [Embody Christ's Love](#), a video that introduces CRS and Helping Hands and [Global Poverty Reflection Walk](#), an activity which allows participants to connect their lives with our brothers and sisters living in poverty overseas through prayers and reflections.

PARTNERSHIP TRAINING AND ENGAGEMENT UNIT NEWS

[A Deacon's View](#) - A Reflection on a Recent Global Fellows visit to the Balkans

by [Deacon Steve Swope](#)

The flow of refugees in Serbia is continuous and most of the people are transiting the country, coming from FYROM (Macedonia) to Croatia. This short video tells a bit of their story. Dino, who you will see in the video works for Catholic Relief Services and understands the plight of refugees; he was a refugee during the war in Bosnia and Serbia in the 1990's. [Refugees...Who are they? Really Who are They?](#) video gives some perspective about the refugees and is very representative of the people that we encountered while in Serbia. It is two minutes that you may want to spend to have a better understanding.

If you would like to request a Global Fellow please contact us at globalfellows@crs.org.

Check out the CRS Clergy Outreach site!

The CRS Clergy Team is pleased to announce the launch of the Clergy Outreach page. This website is meant to be a resource for clergy, our partners who may be looking for resources to share with clergy and our seminary partners. Please be sure to share this link <http://www.crs.org/get-involved/participate/crs-clergy-outreach> with all who may be interested and find it useful.



CATHOLICS
CONFRONT
GLOBAL
POVERTY

[CLICK TO VIEW CURRENT ACTION ALERTS](#)

2016 Annual CRS Diocesan Directors Meeting at Catholic Social Ministry Gathering

A record snowfall in DC this year during CSMG did not cancel the gathering and there was a CRS Diocesan Director in attendance for every inch of snow that fell and then some. These mission oriented and dedicated participants traveled from across the United States for the annual CRS Diocesan Directors' meeting at the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering on January 23rd. CRS Diocesan Directors and other partners present were inspired by Executive Vice President Joan Rosenhauer's presentation in which she asked "How can CRS be a better team at working to assist our partners?" Donal Reilly, Director of CRS Humanitarian Response Department presented an update of the agency's humanitarian and emergency response efforts around the world. Please contact Jacklyn Ireland at Jacklyn.Ireland@crs.org for additional details on the presentations of Joan Rosenhauer and Donal Reilly.

Kathleen O'Toole, Capacity Building Specialist for the Partnership, Training & Engagement Unit has compiled the [notes from the table discussions](#) around "Engaging Catholics in the US in Global Solidarity with CRS" - with a focus on Diocesan Capacity Building, Parish Engagement, Advocacy as a Leadership Development Tool, and Diocesan Collaboration around Hispanic Engagement. Thanks goes out to all who participated in the sharing process.



From left to right: Pam Long, Awardee and CRS Diocesan Director for Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Joan Rosenhauer, CRS Executive VP and Brian Backe, CRS Sr. Director

Pam Long, regional director for Catholic Social Action and the CRS Diocesan Director in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, received the 2016 CRS Rice Bowl Award at this year's annual CRS Diocesan Directors' meeting. "Pam Long's commitment and enthusiasm have been contagious in the Archdiocese. She inspires parishes and schools to embrace Lent as a season of faithful reflection as well as action, creating a positive impact on the lives of the most vulnerable people overseas as well as in our own local communities," said Joan Rosenhauer, CRS Executive Vice President of U.S. Operations. Brian Backe, CRS Senior Director of the Programs and Resources unit presented the award.

CRS UNIVERSITY: CRS STUDENT AMBASSADOR ONLINE TRAINING

This section of the newsletter is geared towards university students so please share it. CRS University is looking for students who would like to support our work on campuses through the CRS Student Ambassador program. Here are some ideas and tips for students who are currently CRS Student Ambassadors and want to recruit others and those seeking information about the program. Check out the video on page 5 of this newsletter for more information.

IDEAS & TIPS FOR USE

We envision this supporting your work on campus to connect faith to global solidarity through CRS in many ways—here are a few that come to mind:

- A starting point for engaging with the [CRS Student Ambassador program](#) if your campus has been wanting to get involved or is considering collaboration. (continued on page 5)



- A way to engage with CRS University at any time, on any schedule, in any setting—so that you don't have to wait for regional or on-campus trainings to roll around.
- A formation opportunity within an already existing CRS Student Ambassador program—segments can be pulled out to facilitate discussion, reflection, and community building.
- An opportunity to train new ambassadors within an already existing CRS Student Ambassador program at any time during the year.
- A way to meet the application criteria for our [CRS SALT Summit](#) this summer if you haven't already participated in a training this year.
- Can be followed up on your campus by a video conference or in-person conversation with CRS Staff. Please contact danielle.roberts@crs.org to request.



[Click here to play the above video](#)

Join CRS University as a CRS Student Ambassador on your campus (or as an accompanying Staff Advisor)! Start by watching this training, either alone or with a group from campus. Follow along and participate by using the form linked below to answer questions along the way. Note: to be considered a CRS Student Ambassador, you must fill out the accompanying form.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Bj_I...

Finally, please fill out a brief evaluation of the training so that we can continue to make this experience better for students and advisors around the country!

Evaluation: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jZ8S...>

Questions? Contact Danielle Roberts at Danielle.roberts@crs.org.

Dear Climate Changers,



We hope your semester is going well and that you're still fitting in plenty of time to make the world a better place. Again, thank you so much for your hard work making *I am Climate Change* a success last semester. This semester, we're partnering with [change.org](#) as our advocacy platform to make sure that our U.S. government leaders follow up productively on the Paris Accord agreed to at COP21. It's up to us to demand change, so let's get out there and **be the solution**. Please contact Danielle Roberts at Danielle.roberts@crs.org to order images that you can use to invite others to join in and sign the [change.org](#) petition.

New Catholic Relief Services Resources

The CRS Resource Center (<http://www.crs.org/get-involved/resource-center>) offers an array of resources

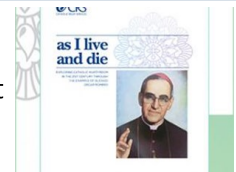
Refugee Crisis



As the influx of refugees into Europe continues, Pope Francis challenges us to respond to the need and to nourish refugees' hope for the future. Help your community take up this charge with these resources.

Feast of Blessed Oscar Romero

On March 24 we celebrate the feast of Blessed Oscar Romero who was beatified just last year. These [handouts, prayers and activities](#) can help a community model his witness of faith.



Ethiopia Drought



In Ethiopia, El Niño has affected weather patterns in the region and two failed rainy seasons have resulted in poor harvest. These [resources](#) suggest ways that faith communities in the United States can live out the Corporal Work of Mercy to “feed the hungry” in Ethiopia.

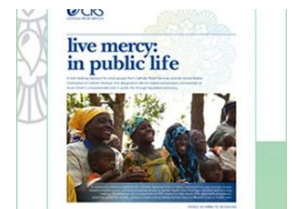
Human Trafficking

This is a collection of resources about human trafficking and the Church's response. Additionally, as March 17 marks the feast of St. Patrick, one of the first great Christian voices against slavery, we have put together this reflection to share his own story of slavery and to raise awareness and call for an end to human slavery everywhere.



Live Mercy: In Public Life

Live Mercy: In Public Life, the third faith-sharing resource in the [Live Mercy series](#), has been published. Right in time for election season, this resource helps small groups reflect together on how they can show Christ's compassionate love in public life through legislative advocacy.



For additional information on these and other resources please contact the [CRS regional office for your state](#) or the CRS U.S. Operations Call Center at 1-866-608-5978.

Contact Us

- [CRS Regional Offices](#)
- Email: resources@crs.org
- U.S. Operations Call Center—1-866-608-5978

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.