



Charity and Justice

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Office of Christian Service, Diocese of Kalamazoo

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Haiti Earthquake –

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Diocesan Response



As you are aware, Bishop Paul Bradley with Cardinal George and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops encouraged all parishes in the Diocese of Kalamazoo to have a **second collection for the people and Church of Haiti**. These funds will be used to support the efforts of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic Church, as they respond to the immediate emergency needs in Haiti for such necessities as water, food, shelter and medical care.

CRS has increased its original funding commitment of \$5 million and is planning an emergency response with an expectation of raising **\$25 million** from its generous supporters. Very generous donations from this second collection for Haiti have been coming to the Diocese. .

CRS has been able to quickly respond. CRS has distributed food and water from its warehouses in the Haitian capital and the city of Les Cayes. Additional aid has come from CRS' supplies in the neighboring Dominican Republic. When the quake struck CRS already had a staff of 313 in Haiti with more CRS staff coming. CRS has been serving in Haiti for 55 years.

CRS has turned a Port-au-Prince golf course into one of the first formal camps for the displaced. CRS has worked with the United Nations and the U.S. Military to turn this camp that attracted 20,000 people during the

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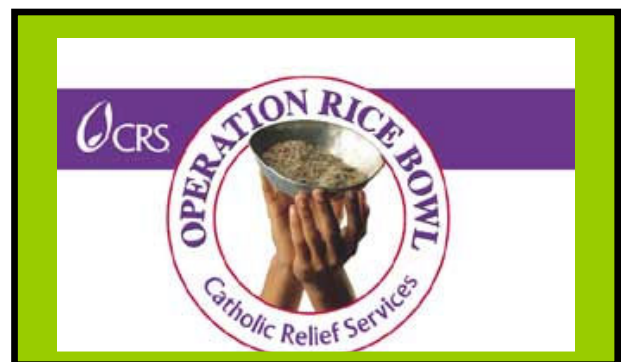


day and up to 50,000 people during the night into a formal facility for the displaced. CRS has registered residents and delivered buckets of food, sanitation items and water to Haitians waiting in long, orderly lines. CRS has provided assistance to earthquake damaged St. Francois de Sales Hospital by buying fuel, recruiting volunteers, procuring an ambulance, and bringing in truckloads of medicine.

Go to www.crs.org to see and read timely updates on what CRS is doing in Haitian people.

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principles 1 - Life and Dignity of the Human Person and 6 - Solidarity

2010 Operation Rice Bowl



2010 will be the 35th Lenten season for **Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl (ORB)**. From its beginning in 1975, as a program in the Diocese of Allentown, PA, ORB has grown to be a nationwide tradition. Today, ORB is used by parishes, schools and individuals in all 50 states in the United States.

Our faith tradition calls us to **pray, fast, learn, and give**

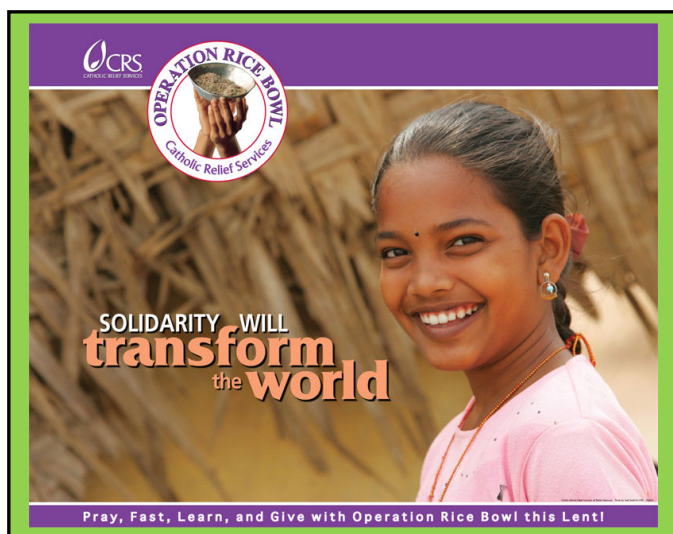
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alms during Lent. This tradition comes to life in **Operation Rice Bowl (ORB)**, Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program. You will **pray** with your faith community, **fast** in solidarity with those who are hungry, **learn** about our global community, and **give** to the poor around the world. This year ORB's theme is "Solidarity will transform the world."

- ❑ **Pray**
- ❑ **Fast**
- ❑ **Learn**
- ❑ **Give**

Since 1975, U.S. Catholics through ORB have raised over **\$191 million**. **\$143 million** (75%) of these funds have gone to Catholic Relief Services' overseas development projects in over **40** countries. **\$48 million** (25%) of these funds have remained in local dioceses for projects that assist the poor there. This Lent join over 13,000 parishes and schools participating in ORB.

From ORB's beginning many parishes in the Diocese of Kalamazoo have annually participated. Thanks to the generosity of our people these past 34 years, the Diocese has collected **\$1,126,917.41** for ORB. **\$845,188.06** of ORB funds has been sent to support Catholic Relief Services' overseas development projects. These projects bring clean water, small enterprise development, and agricultural enrichment to the poor in **40** countries. **\$281,729.35** of ORB funds remained in our Diocese to support local hunger and poverty alleviation programs. For more information on ORB, see web site: www.orb.crs.org



CST Principles 4 – Option for the Poor and Vulnerable and 6 – Solidarity



“Thank you” for sharing the fire of your love by donating to the 2010 Diocesan Heating Assistance Program.

U.S. Bishops Push for Immigration Reform in 2010

On the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6th the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) announced steps to push for the enactment of immigration reform legislation in 2010. Bishop John C. Wester, bishop of Salt Lake City, Utah, and chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration, and Bishop Howard J. Hubbard, bishop of Albany, New York, and chairman of the International Policy Committee of the USCCB, made the announcement.

“It is our view, and that of others, that the American public, including the Catholic and other faith communities, want a humane and comprehensive solution to the problems which beset our immigration system, and they want Congress to address this issue,” said Bishop Wester. Steps announced by Bishop Wester include:

- The launch of a nationwide postcard campaign under the Justice for Immigrants campaign,
- The launch of two Web sites, a new Justice for Immigrants Web site with tools for parishes (www.justiceforimmigrants.org), and
- A nationwide action alert asking for Congress to enact immigration reform as soon as possible.

Send a postcard electronically in support of comprehensive immigration reform to your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators by going to www.justiceforimmigrants.org. Click on “Send a postcard to Congress” in red in the middle of the page. Enter your zip code, Follow the directions.

Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act of 2009 (CIR ASAP), legislation to reform the U.S. immigration system has been introduced by Representative Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) and 69 other cosponsors.”

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principles 1 - Life and Dignity of the Human Person and 6 – Solidarity

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