



Charity and Justice

Volume 9, Issue 3

Office of Christian Service, Diocese of Kalamazoo

March 2010



Pray the Operation Rice Bowl Lenten prayer before enjoying your meal.

God of all people,

Hear us as we join in prayer with our brothers and sisters in need.

Bless our Lenten fasting, learning and giving.

May your generous love for your people be our guide as we reach out to all who live with hunger and poverty. Amen

Your Recipe for a Fulfilling Lent

Catholic Relief Services

Dear Friends,

In his latest encyclical, Caritas in Veritate, Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that "hunger still reaps enormous numbers of victims among those who, like Lazarus, are not permitted to take their place at the rich man's table." The daily news presents us with countless stories of global hunger.

The good news is that Catholics here in the United States are responding. Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl provides resources to help us focus our Lenten traditions of prayer, fasting and almsgiving on ways to assist our brothers and sisters who struggle with hunger and poverty. Please

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continue on a spiritual journey with CRS' Operation Rice Bowl this Lent, and show your solidarity with those overseas who toil to access life's basic necessities.

God bless you,
The Operation Rice Bowl Team



Catholic Social Teaching
Principles 1 – Life and Dignity of the Human Person, 4 – Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, and 6 – Solidarity

The Diocese Responds to Haiti

Sister Susan Ridley



In an outpouring of exceptional and heartfelt generosity the Catholics of the Diocese of Kalamazoo have had the largest collection ever in responding to a natural disaster. A Diocesan Check from 52 Parishes, 2 schools, and 7 Individuals for **\$304,351.58** was sent to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for Haiti. 4 Parishes and 6 individuals sent an additional **\$10,348.70** directly to CRS. One Parish sent a donation to the Diocese for CRS but also sent **\$2,375.92** to assist a priest in Haiti who has taken in 21 seminarians. Another Parish sent a donation to the Diocese for CRS but also **\$7,675.00** to St. Vincent De Paul Society in Haiti. So a known total of **\$324,751.20** from our Catholic people in our Diocese is helping people in Haiti. Other Catholics in our Diocese sent donations directly to CRS.

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May the Lord bless all of you who in these tough economic times have “loved your neighbor as yourself” by contributing to Catholic Relief Services’ efforts for the Haitian people.

CRS thanks all of you for your generous contributions to the relief efforts assisting our Haitian brothers and sisters. In addition CRS continues to provide relief and development programs in 99 other countries around the world. The Catholic community can be proud of their role in making the global work of Catholic Relief Services possible. Visit the following websites: orb.crs.org and crs.org for more information on CRS’s Operation Rice Bowl and CRS’ response in Haiti.

During the Annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington DC held from February 7th – 10th, 400 Catholic social ministry leaders from across the U.S. attended, Delegations visited congressional offices to thank them for supporting Haiti’s relief, Temporary Protected Status, and tax incentives for donations. The delegations urged congressional support of an emergency supplemental appropriation, recovery, and long-term development funds, debt relief, and trade incentives. CRS co-sponsors the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering.



Catholic Social Teaching Principles 1 – Life and Dignity of the Human Person, 4 – Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, and 6 – Solidarity

Pope Benedict’s Message for Lent 2010

You may be aware that Pope Benedict XVI has recently issued a message for Lent 2010. This year’s message focuses on the theme “**The justice of God has been manifested through faith in Jesus Christ.**” In the message, Pope Benedict

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reflects on the “profound link between faith in God who ‘lifts the needy from the ash heap’ (Ps 113,7) and justice towards one’s neighbor.” During Lent, he calls for our “conversion to Christ” which requires us to “exit the illusion of self-sufficiency in order to discover and accept one’s own need – the need of others and God.” Strengthened by this experience, he writes, “the Christian is moved to contribute to creating just societies, where all receive what is necessary to live according to the dignity proper to the human person and where justice is enlivened by love.” The **full text of the message can be found at www.vatican.va**. Once there click on The Holy See – English, then in lower right click on circle – Latest Update. Finally on left click on Lent 2010.

Haiti Earthquake – CRS Special Report # 5

As of 2-22-10, the Haitian Government reports over 200,000 people were killed, 300,000 were treated for injuries, and 250 homes were destroyed.

With the rainy season beginning, there is a new urgency to provide water resistant shelters and to clear rubble from canals and ditches to prevent flooding.

To date: CRS has;

- Provided food to 597,989 people. Of this total, CRS distributes 30,903 ready-to-eat food kits (lasting a family of five for two days), as well as bulk supplies (626,829 lbs. of soy-fortified bulgur, oil, corn-soy blend, and lentils/peas) to an estimated 33,152 families that will last typically 15 days. Another 49,699 families (or 248,496 people) received bulk rice.
- Distributed emergency shelter kits to 9,100 families in two camps.
- Supported a Cash-for-Work program for 160 people to clean the huge amounts of rubble and debris out of the city’s main canal.
- Promoted safe hygiene in innovative ways. Hired a well-known Haitian urban artist to paint murals throughout the city with messages reinforcing hand washing and good hygiene practices.
- Delivered medical care and treatment to an estimated 12,000 people and continues to triage an average of 300 people a day.

As of 2-22-10 **CRS has received \$74.2 million** in private contributions and commitments **for Haiti**.

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