



Charity and Justice

Volume 10, Issue 3

Office of Christian Service, Diocese of Kalamazoo

March 2011

2011 Operation Rice Bowl



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

2011 will be the 36th Lenten season for Operation Rice Bowl (ORB). Our faith tradition calls us to **pray, fast, learn and give alms** during Lent. This tradition comes to life in **Operation Rice Bowl (ORB)**, Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) 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.

"We are disciples for all nations!" This year's theme for ORB echoes the **Holy Father's Lenten message**. It reminds us that, as Jesus' disciples today, we have a responsibility to care for poor and vulnerable people everywhere. Through ORB, you can make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need through simple—and significant—actions. Over the past 36 years, **\$199 million** has been collected through ORB. This money is used in support of CRS development projects. Please join us on a spiritual journey with CRS' Operation Rice Bowl this Lent, and **put your faith into action to help our brothers and sisters in need**.

Since 1976 The Diocese has collected **\$1,166,971** for ORB. **\$875,229** ORB funds have been sent to support Catholic Relief Services' development projects and **\$291,742** ORB funds have remained in the Diocese for projects for the poor. To learn more go to orb.crs.org. **CST Principles 4 - Option for the Poor and Vulnerable and 6 - Solidarity**

Building Peace, Building Solidarity

Kimberly Mazyck from CRS in JustFAITH Voices



Solidarity is an element of right relationship – i.e., people connected to all of humanity as individuals and as community. The call to solidarity is not easily taken up, but it is one that reminds us of our relationship to our sisters and brothers around the world. Sometimes the action required for solidarity involves more than a consideration of which material items are purchased. Fortunately, we can simply turn to church teaching or scripture to understand this value called solidarity and its importance for all people.

In *On Social Concerns*, Pope John Paul II, states that **"Solidarity helps us to see the 'other' – whether a person, people or nation – not just as some kind of instrument, with a work capacity and physical strength to be exploited at low cost and then discarded when no longer useful, but as our 'neighbor', a 'helper' to be made a sharer, on par with ourselves, in the banquet of life to which all are equally invited by God."**

Catholic Relief Services implements peacebuilding programs around the world. Peacebuilding programming provides a plan to achieve right relationships and strengthens and contributes to a vibrant and civil society that promotes peace. These particular values of peacebuilding remind us of **Pope John Paul II's assertion that "peacemaking is the work of solidarity."**

Since 1994, peacebuilding has become one of Catholic Relief Services' top priorities. The unfortunate lessons

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learned as a result of the conflicts in Rwanda have become the stepping stones to our work in countries where conflict may occur. Peacebuilding programs focus on socializing people around the concepts of: **1) tolerance, 2) justice, 3) fairness, 4) inclusion, 5) representation, and 6) accountability.**

In the 1995 U.S. Catholic Bishops' statement, *Political Responsibility: Proclaiming the Gospel of Life, Protecting the Least Among Us, and Pursuing the Common Good*, we are reminded that solidarity recognizes that the fates of all people are linked. When we committed to being linked and committed to solidarity, we will find ourselves committed to **loving our neighbors as ourselves.**

Catholic Social Principle 6 - Solidarity

Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) Collection (March 12/13)



Fight Poverty. Defend Human Life. Across the country, work is being done to fight poverty at its roots in places that offer inadequate education, tolerate unaffordable housing, and turn away from communities in need. The **Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)** is justice and charity in action through the Church. CCHD funds community groups that work to change the systems that keep them in poverty. Your support will create lasting change.

CCHD is committed to accountability and transparency. We allocate funds to community projects that promote the mission and vision of CCHD and the Catholic Church while adhering to the moral and social teachings of the Church. CCHD's primary source of support is an annual Collection held in parishes across the United States.

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The annual CCHD Collection is split, and 25% of the proceeds collected in a diocese remain to support anti-poverty projects in that diocese. **Please be generous to the CCHD Collection on March 12/13.**

Visit www.usccb.org/cchd to read more details of CCHD's efforts to break the cycle of poverty in your community and across the country.

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principles 4 – Option for the Poor and Vulnerable and 6 – Solidarity

Catholic Relief Services Collection (April 2/3)

Catholic Relief Services Collection helps families, values their fundamental role in society, and strives to protect them. **The Collection funds six Catholic agencies** that protect children who are vulnerable to exploitation, advocate for policies that strengthen families abroad, and legally reunite families that have been separated by migration or war. **Please support the Collection on April 2/3 and Jesus in disguise. How will you help?**

- Alleviate suffering and provide assistance to people in need through the international Catholic humanitarian agency **Catholic Relief Services.**
- Supply outreach and pastoral care to refugees, migrants, and travelers through the **USCCB's Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church.**
- Provide assistance to victims of natural disasters and other emergencies around the world through the **Holy Father's Relief Fund.**
- Advocate for poor and vulnerable people and for international justice and peace through the **USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.**
- Actively help victims of human trafficking and refugees by providing resettlement services and public policy advocacy through the **USCCB's Department of Migration and Refugee Services.**
- Provide legal services to struggling immigrants through **Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc.**

Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections to learn more about the Catholic Relief Services Collection. Once there on the menu on the left, click on All Collection Resources.

Catholic Social Teaching Principle 6 – Solidarity

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