



HELP WANTED: Volunteering for Catholic Relief Services

When people learn about Catholic Relief Services and the work around the world, many people want to know, "What can I do to help?" CRS needs people to raise awareness and organize action in your parish on behalf of the poor and marginalized around the world. Here are some suggestions of what you – or a group of you - can do to in **5 to 10 hours per month**. Your work, your voice, and your prayers at the local level makes a difference for the people we serve around the world! *Solidarity will transform the world*, and the work of building solidarity begins in your community.

August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Spend a little time getting familiar with www.CRS.org and www.crsespanol.org (if your parish has ministries in Spanish).▪ Meet with your pastor and share your interest in building global solidarity.
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Visit www.confrontglobalpoverty.org, sign up for Catholics Confront Global Poverty (CCGP) and respond to the latest Action Alert.▪ September 21 is the UN International Day of Peace; read a story on CRS.org about peacebuilding and say a prayer that more people around the world become advocates for peace.
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Recruit a few people to help with a Fair Trade Sale on a Sunday in December. Watch the video at www.crsfairtrade.org and plan your sale.▪ World Food Day is October 16; read a story on CRS.org about agriculture and say a prayer that the world community may unite to end hunger.▪ Respond to one CCGP Action Alert.
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ World AIDS Day is December 1. Visit CRS.org, search “World AIDS Day”, and send the prayers available there to the pastor, asking them to consider them for the Sunday closest to Dec. 1. Write a short announcement about World AIDS Day for the bulletin.▪ Talk to the pastor about inviting a CRS Global Fellow to the parish during Lent.▪ Respond to one CCGP Action Alert.
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Host the Fair Trade Sale this month. Celebrate your sale’s success with the volunteers!▪ Visit www.CRSRicebowl.org and get familiar with this year’s CRS Rice Bowl materials. Find out who coordinates Rice Bowl in your parish and make a plan for how you can help.▪ Respond to one CCGP Action Alert.

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ January includes National Migration Week. Read a story at CRS.org about CRS' work with migrants. Write a petition for compassion and justice for immigrants and ask it to be included in masses the second Sunday of January. ▪ Attend a CCGP Webinar and learn about advocacy. The weekend after Martin Luther King Day is a good time to sign up parishioners to receive the CCGP Action Alerts. ▪ Respond to one CCGP Action Alert.
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help to distribute Rice Bowls (Ash Wednesday or the Sunday before Lent). ▪ Make an announcement at mass about the CRS Rice Bowl program, and show one of the CRS Rice Bowl videos at the coffee hour. ▪ Respond to one CCGP Action Alert.
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visit www.usccb.org/crscollection and learn about the CRS Collection. Submit an announcement to the bulletin or make a pulpit announcement about the CRS collection. ▪ March 22 is World Water Day. Read a story on CRS.org about water projects and pray that people around the world become more active in sharing and preserving our world's water. ▪ Respond to one CCGP Action Alert.
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help to collect and count Rice Bowl contributions. Find a creative way to thank parishioners for their participation! ▪ Meet with the coffee hour hosts to plan a Fair Trade coffee hour for World Fair Trade Day (2nd Sunday in May). Educational resources are at www.crsfairtrade.org ▪ April 22 is Earth Day. Read a story on CRS.org about watershed management and pray that people in the First World make a choice for more sustainable lifestyles. ▪ Respond to one CCGP Action Alert.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help to host a Fair Trade coffee hour, in honor of World Fair Trade Day. ▪ Respond to one CCGP Action Alert.
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Write a notice for the bulletin explaining to the parish what CCGP is and how it helps put faith into practice. After masses one Sunday, show the video "This is What Solidarity Looks Like" and sign-up 10 parishioners for CCGP Action Alerts. ▪ June 20 is World Refugee Day. Read a story on CRS.org about our care for refugees and pray that people around the world reach out in compassion to refugee women and families. ▪ Respond to one CCGP Action Alert.
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thank you for a great year of work! Write a short note to your pastor and parish staff thanking them for their support this year, and find a way to celebrate your work for global solidarity!