

PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

You Matter to CRS

U.S. Operations Division



January/February 2017

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CRS Board Names Sean Callahan New CRS President & CEO

Sean Callahan has been selected Catholic Relief Services new President & CEO. He began his new position on January 1, 2017.

A 28-year veteran of CRS, Sean, has held a wide variety of leadership roles overseas and at agency headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland.

For the past 5 years, Sean served as the chief operating officer for CRS, responsible for Overseas Operations, U.S. Operations and Human Resources. In this role, he ensured CRS' commitment to its mission to cherish, preserve and uphold the sacredness and dignity of all human life, foster charity and justice, and embody [Catholic social and moral teaching](#). He enhanced performance, stimulated innovation and positioned CRS for the future. Please [click here](#) to learn more.



Photo by Philip Laubner/CRS

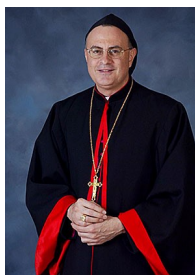
"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear." Dr. Martin Luther King



New CRS Chairman Bishop Gregory John Mansour

CRS welcomes Bishop Gregory John Mansour as our new board chairman. He was named to the position by newly elected USCCB president Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo at the USCCB's annual meeting in Baltimore. Bishop Mansour -- of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn -- has served on the CRS board since 2012.

As we look forward to his leadership, we thank Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City for his three years of exemplary service as board chairman.



The CRS board also has three new members: Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi of Milwaukee; Bishop Gregory L. Parkes of Pensacola-Tallahassee; and lay member Stephen A. Walsh, former Chief Investment Officer (CIO) of Western Asset Management Company.

For more details, [click here](#) to view the press release.

Please join CRS in giving thanks to these wonderful people for their service to the poor.

The Extraordinary Value of CRS Rice Bowl

Embracing a new catechetical program, outreach program, or embracing one more deeply in a parish or school can be challenging. Actually, from a church management perspective, there could be a number of concerns. With parish and school leaders already wearing so many hats, some of the questions that may arise could be: Is this going to add significantly to our workload? Is there a long-term commitment? Is this going to be an asset to our parish/school and its mission, or a burden and distraction? Here's a big one: Is this program faithful to Catholic doctrine? Please [read further](#) for more information.

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NEWS from the CRS West Regional Office

Diocese of Orange Hispanic Ministry on Fire with CRS Rice Bowl!

Over the last year and a half, the two largest Lay Apostolic Movements (LAMs) in the diocese of Orange have come together under a common vision of engaging in charity and the Corporal Works of Mercy as an integral tenant of their ministry brought to life through CRS Rice Bowl.

Thanks to the steadfast commitment, accompaniment and ministry with the LAMs, Deacon Guillermo Torres, Director of Hispanic Ministry, has over several years set the foundation by which the LAMs have fallen in love with CRS Rice Bowl. *"I am in love with this program and I could write an entire book with everything that is in my heart. Thank God for this opportunity,"* says Alejandra Estrada (Jovenes para Cristo-AJPC) one of the founding Core Team members. Please [click here](#) to read more.



RB Ministry Core Team trains parish leaders at the Pastoral Center in the Diocese of Orange; November 28th and 30th, 2017.



Lent is Coming!

Read the [January/February CRS Rice Bowl Newsletter](#) and checkout 3 easy steps you take to make Lent a success throughout your diocese.

encounter
Lent
Encounter ourselves.
Encounter our neighbors.
Encounter our God.

Along the Way

By Deacon Charles Rohrbacher, CRS Diocesan Director for Diocese of Juneau, Alaska

During Advent, I was in the checkout line at the supermarket and noticed a bin of chocolate bars that I hadn't ever seen before. In bright green and blue and yellow and red wrappers, were the words: Tony Chocolonely. I noticed that unlike just about everything else in the store, this company had apparently *not* read the memo about how to market products for the "holiday season."

Their chocolate had a simple two-color paper wrapper and there wasn't a snowflake, Christmas tree or Santa hat in sight. Instead, what stood out on the wrapper was an image of a breaking chain and the slogan: "Together we make chocolate 100% slave free."

So I looked up the manufacturer and discovered that this brand of chocolate bar is named after a Dutch investigative journalist, Teun (Tony) van de Keuken, who was shocked to discover eleven years ago the connection between the production of chocolate (estimated yearly worldwide retail sales of \$100 billion) and child labor and slavery.

After approaching and being ignored by the global chocolate conglomerates, van de Keuken ate several chocolate bars and turned himself in to the legal authorities in the Netherlands as an accessory to slavery. Over 2,100 other chocolate consumers eventually joined him as prospective defendants in this prosecution and van de Keuken's investigative reporting resulted in four boys from Cote d'Ivoire who were prepared to testify that they had been forced to work as slaves on a cacao plantation. Please [click here to read the complete article](#).

NEWS from CRS Education



YOUTH MINISTRY & FAITH FORMATION RESOURCES

Visit the new CRS Education Website (education.crs.org)!

Explore numerous resources to help youth live their faith. Meet our vulnerable brothers and sisters around the globe. Learn about their lives and reflect on the root causes of their suffering. Take action to ease poverty, hunger, and injustice.

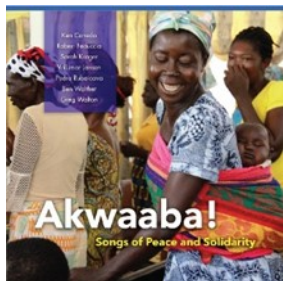
STAND & LEAD These are just a few ways CRS Education helps youth encounter the world. Rooted in Catholic social teaching and designed for educators, youth ministers, catechists and families, our tools and resources are creating lasting change – and a new generation of global citizens.

Visit education.crs.org. To receive daily updates, inspiration and ideas, look for CRS Education on Facebook.

FOODFAST Enhance your middle or high school aged community with FoodFast, CRS' hunger awareness experience for Catholic youth. By spending time in the shoes of people who go hungry, Catholic youth deepen their faith and strengthen their yearning to bring change to our world! Choose from different themes and models to meet your ministry needs. Check out the new look and features of our website. Visit foodfast.crs.org to register and receive free prayers, activities, and resources.

HELP YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE A STAND AND LEAD! CRS is developing a new peer leadership program, *STAND AND LEAD*. The program is being designed to help young people learn what it means to stand in solidarity on a global level, to live lives that witness solidarity, and to teach their peers how to stand in solidarity. We are looking for individuals and faith communities that are willing to review the resources or even pilot a retreat. Provide feedback to help us create the necessary tools and an optimal online experience that serves youth leaders and you will receive a complementary fair trade gift for your help. If you know of an individual or community that might be willing to share in this role, contact Ted Miles at 410-951-7475 or ted.miles@crs.org.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink." —Matthew 25:35



In partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), seven Spirit & Song/OCP composers went on a goodwill tour of Ghana, praying and singing with people in their communities and listening to their stories of struggle and triumph. This life-changing experience inspired this album of new songs about the social justice teaching of the Catholic Church.

Offering a unique blend of styles and genres, *Akwaaba! Songs of Peace and Solidarity* brings together music from Ken Canedo, Robert Feduccia, Sarah Kroger, Valimar Jansen, Pedro Rubalcava, Ben Walther and Greg Walton, along with contributions from Frank Jansen and Ted Miles.

This universal collection features songs and sounds of everything from contemporary Christian and lively gospel to Hispanic rhythms and vibrant African percussion. Opening up the album, "Akwaaba! Welcome!" is sure to find a home in any community looking for singable music for their multicultural assembly. Its call-and-response style is reminiscent of the music that the composers heard in the streets and churches of Ghana.

In an effort to continue giving back, a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the CD and MP3 album will support the work of CRS in empowering people in developing nations and in nurturing peace. You can purchase the CD or digital recording at [Oregon Catholic Press](http://OregonCatholicPress.com). Look for prayer and catechetical resources in February 2017 on the CRS Education website.



“There is no worse material poverty ... than the poverty which prevents people from earning their bread and deprives them of the dignity of work.” —Pope Francis

When you [purchase fair trade products](#), you stand in solidarity with the poor and respect their [right to dignified work](#).



Valentine's Day Gifts Made with Love

From decadent dark chocolate, unique jewelry and handmade candles—CRS Ethical Trade partners work to produce high quality products while maintaining fair wages, safe working conditions and environmental sustainability.

[Check out our collection of Valentine's Day gifts](#) and share the love with those in need.

Photo courtesy of Mata Traders



Raise Your Voice for the Common Good

Raise your voice with your elected leaders for the common good

Due to the national convocation of Catholic leaders in FL in July, the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering will not take place in Washington, DC this year. However, there are **many ways** you can raise your voice with your elected leaders for the common good. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services encourage you to visit with your members of Congress during the congressional recess, February 20-24 to raise the Church's concerns about global and domestic poverty, peace and justice issues. Please join our efforts to promote global solidarity, peace and justice.

See the information below for how you can participate. Learn about the issues and get organized. If you would like to lead a delegation from your state or congressional district, [please let your CRS regional office know](#). We can help provide you with the information you will need to do this successfully. Thank you so much for your commitment and leadership.


1. If you are new to advocacy or would like a refresher, participate in the **Advocacy Training 101 on January 25 at 2 pm ET**. Join your colleagues from across the country for this training webinar on [advocacy fundamentals of meeting with your legislators](#). We will cover the prep work that must happen before a meeting, best practices, and follow-ups.
2. To prepare for those visits, take part in **the virtual Legislative Advocacy Issues Briefing Webinar on February 7, 2017, at 2 pm ET**. [Register Now](#).
3. Building on the energy and momentum we have gained from our annual on-the-Hill Catholic advocacy on critical issues impacting our communities during the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, **join us February 20-24, 2017 for in-district visits** to your Congressional representatives. [Visit the website](#).






The **CRS Resource Center** (<http://www.crs.org/get-involved/resource-center>) offers an array of resources suitable for all ages to form disciples to live out Christ's call to care for the poor and vulnerable everywhere.

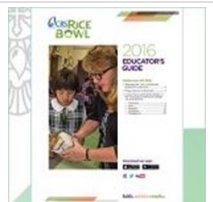
As you plan for the upcoming pastoral year, be sure to check out our [calendar of resources](#) for ministry!




Human Trafficking Resources
A prayer service, videos, handouts and other resources to help communities pray for an end to and raise awareness about human trafficking



National V Encuentro: Resources for Forming Missionary Disciples
A list of concrete ways ministry leaders can help form missionary disciples who reach out to the peripheries



Lenten Resources: CRS Rice Bowl
A Lenten program of faith formation activities for families, parishes and schools

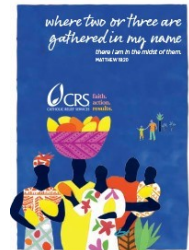


Sacramental Preparation
Supplemental resources for sacramental preparation that invite people to reflect on how the sacrament they are preparing to receive commissions them to follow Christ by caring for their brothers and sisters in need.

The CRS 2015 Annual Report is now Available Online

Our *2015 Annual Report* is now available online! It is a reminder of the power of your faith and generosity—and the positive and profound changes we've made together.

Please contact the U.S. Operations Call Center at 1-866-608-5978 or email resources@crs.org if you wish a hard copy of the annual report 866-608-5978



Thank you for all that you do to serve those in need.

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

CONTACT US

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

CRS U.S. Operations

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.