

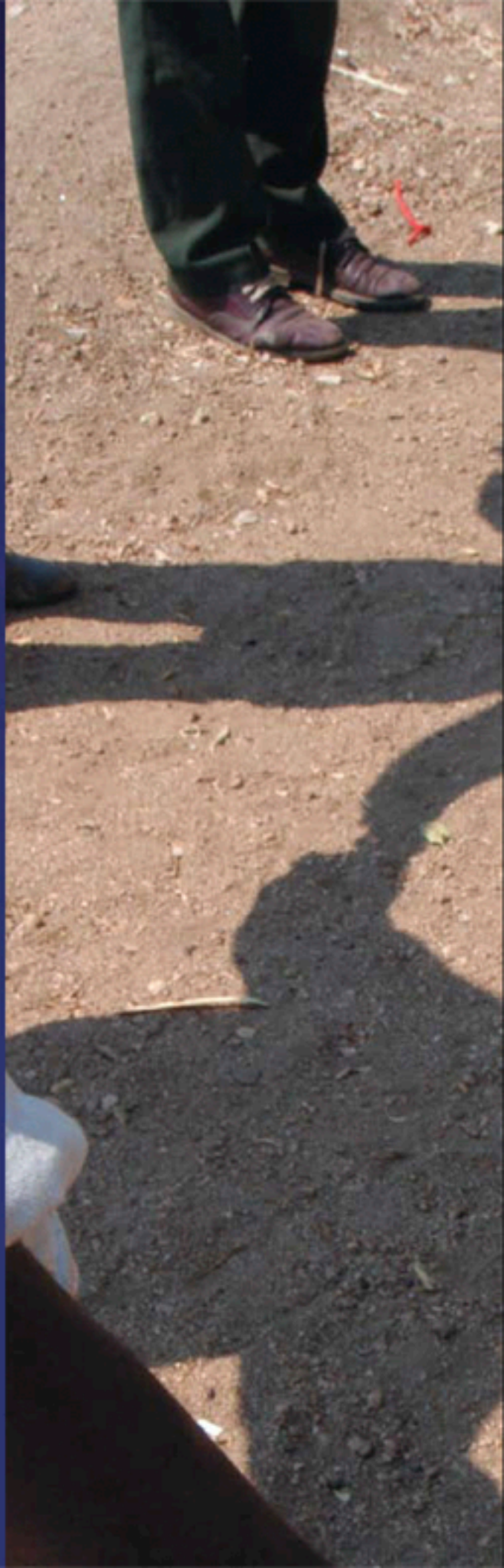



2007 Annual Report

October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2007

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The dedication and professionalism of our partners—overseas and here in the United States—were critical to our achievements in 2007. The photos on these cover pages reflect our work in:

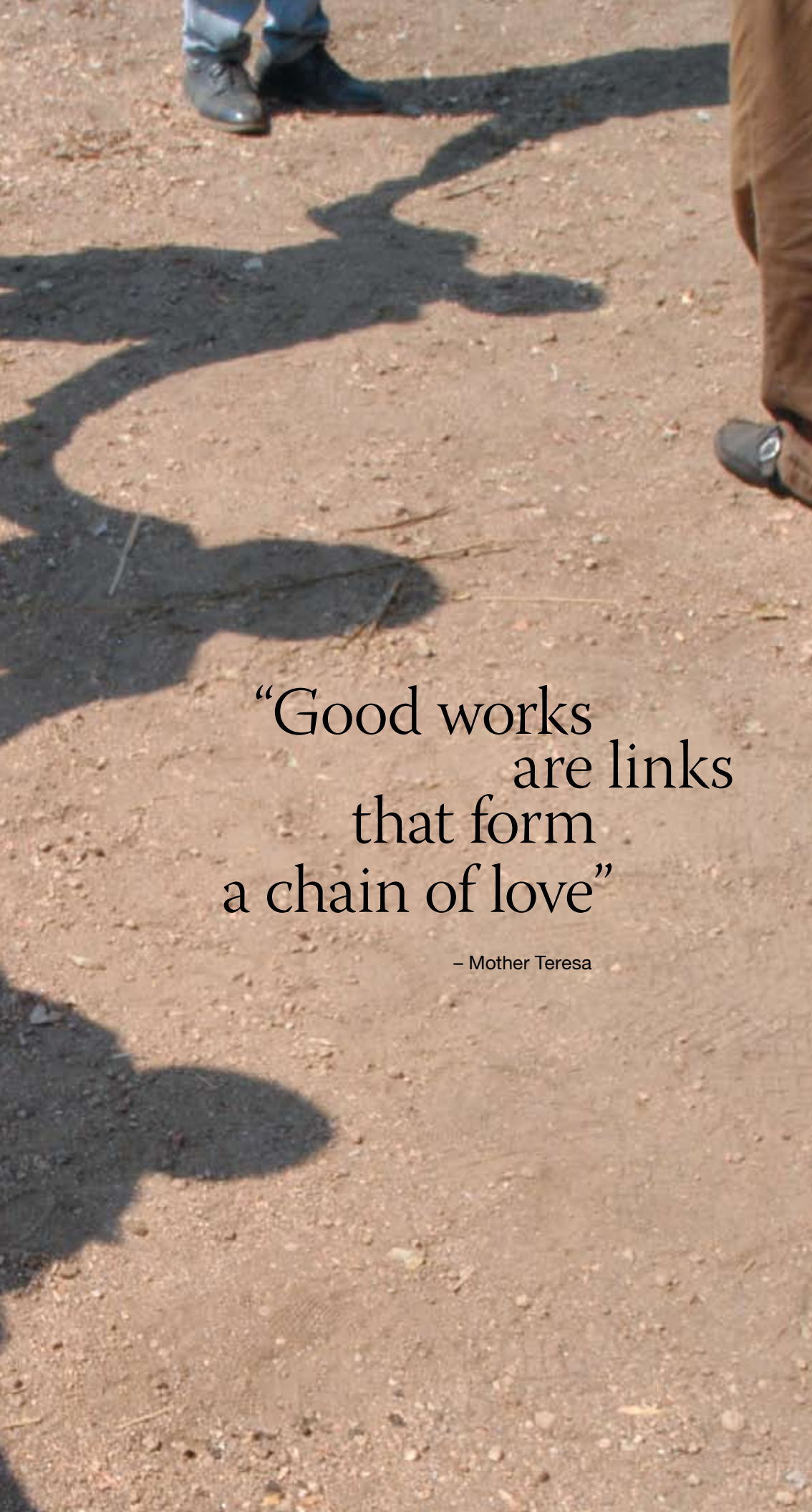
Front cover: Ethiopia

Opposite: Angola

Far right, from top: Benin, the United States, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Indonesia and Nicaragua

Overleaf: Cambodia

Photos by David Snyder for CRS, Sean Sprague for CRS, Matt McCann/CRS, Jim Stipe for CRS, Michelle Frankfurter/CRS and Rick D'Elia for CRS



“Good works
are links
that form
a chain of love”

– Mother Teresa



Mission Statement

Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and disadvantaged outside the country. Working under the auspices of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, CRS is administered by a board of bishops and lay people, and is staffed by men and women committed to the Catholic Church's apostolate of helping those in need. It maintains strict standards of efficiency and accountability.

The fundamental motivating force in all activities of CRS is the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it pertains to the alleviation of human suffering, the development of people and the fostering of charity and justice in the world. The policies and programs of the agency reflect and express the teaching of the Catholic Church. At the same time, Catholic Relief Services assists persons on the basis of need, not creed, race or nationality.

Catholic Relief Services gives active witness to the mandate of Jesus Christ to respond to human needs in the following ways:

- by responding to victims of natural and man-made disasters
- by providing assistance to the poor to alleviate their immediate needs
- by supporting self-help programs which involve people and communities in their own development
- by helping those it serves to restore and preserve their dignity and to realize their potential
- by collaborating with religious and nonsectarian persons and groups of good will in programs and projects which contribute to a more equitable society
- by helping to educate the people of the United States to fulfill their moral responsibilities in alleviating human suffering, removing its causes and promoting social justice

What Partners Make Possible



Dear Friend,

Somebody asked me recently, “What’s your business model?” I gave a one-word answer: “Partnership.”

Almost immediately, I realized my answer was incomplete. The fact is, the term *partnership* doesn’t really do justice to how Catholic Relief Services operates. As an organization of the Catholic Church, we collaborate, cooperate, coordinate, assist and support the poor and suffering alongside other institutions and parts of the universal Church. We act in solidarity with the Church wherever we are, whenever we can. Yet we are so much more than partners: We are part of the Church family.

As a Church agency, we seek to reach out and embrace other institutions and groups: religious and secular, governmental, nongovernmental, intergovernmental, public and private, always aware of who we are and what we believe. For us, everything flows from an understanding of the sanctity of human life and dignity of the human person. That belief opens much ground for cooperation—although not in every direction.

We are strengthened by the fabric of these relationships. They make what we do more meaningful, complete and efficient. Let me offer a few examples.

Last year saw a continued expansion of our response to the HIV pandemic. Working through a network of Catholic parishes, health care institutions and social service agencies, the CRS-led AIDSRelief consortium is giving new life to people living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. As fiscal year 2007 drew to a close, we were poised to mark two important milestones: more than 100,000 people receiving antiretroviral therapy, and another

250,000 people receiving related medical care. In our HIV prevention programs, we continue to encourage communities to discuss the essential issues of abstinence, mutual fidelity and gender violence as they work to stem the spread of HIV.

Several emergencies occupied our attention in 2007. Working with our partners, we responded to widespread flooding across East and West Africa, in Pakistan and in India. We helped those affected by major earthquakes in Indonesia and Peru, and an earthquake and tsunami that struck the Solomon Islands. CRS provided aid to victims of massive typhoons in the Philippines and Bangladesh, as well as hurricanes in Central America and the Caribbean, and flooding in Mexico. And we continued to assist people displaced by the ongoing violence in Darfur, Sudan. Our Emergency Operations department organized people and relief resources, teaching communities how to prepare for future disasters.

Chronic hunger is a humanitarian crisis that kills more people every year than any other type of disaster. Yet in 2007, declining support for food aid obliged us to cut 400,000 beneficiaries from agriculture and school lunch programs. More cuts are looming because of the rising costs of food and freight. CRS is working with the U.S. Congress and administration, and people of good will to provide the food and cash needed to sustain these vital programs.

Forming and deepening partnership at home is key to CRS’ mission of engaging American Catholics in our work around the world. At the end of 2006, we marked 60 years of partnership with the National Council of Catholic Women. We formed new

partnerships with the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies at San Diego University; Adore Ministries; and Applied Materials, Inc., sponsor of the Tech Museum Awards, which honor innovators who harness technology to improve the human condition.

Our largest partner group, our donors, has continued to respond generously to the tremendous need among the poorest people we serve. Private contributions in the 2007 fiscal year totaled \$158 million, which allowed us to leverage an additional \$368 million in resources from the U.S. government and other organizations to benefit more than 80 million people. Our program expenses totaled \$560 million, making this the fourth consecutive year that programming has surpassed half a billion dollars.

Finally, as the year drew to a close, Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg, Florida, completed his term as chairman of the CRS Board of Directors. The bishop served his first term from 1989 to 1995, and rejoined the board as chairman in 2002. During his tenure, CRS has experienced tremendous growth in terms of programming, complexity and reach. On behalf of the millions of people we serve each year, we extend our deepest gratitude to Bishop Lynch for his inspiring and effective leadership.

As always, I thank you for your generous support and ask for your continued prayers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Hackett". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Ken Hackett
President

Teaming Up to Save Lives



Deep in the mountains of Pakistan, 53 elementary-school students proved tougher than the elements. Layered in winter clothes at a ceremony in early 2007, the students stood on their toes to peer into the windows of their new school, its bright red walls surrounded by snow.

Ever since an earthquake toppled their school and homes in October 2005, these students had attended class in a thin tent that was barely strong enough to fight off the wind and snow. For the last two years they had shivered from the cold; now, they were shaking with excitement.

The teamwork involved in building this one-room schoolhouse represents the foundation of Catholic Relief Services' work in all corners of the world. At this ceremony stood our local staff, partners, civic organizations and government leaders. Without each of them, the school would not be here. Neither would the 20 other schools built since the earthquake devastated the area and killed 78,000 people.

It is through our local networks that CRS is able to reach so many people so quickly and effectively, and stand by them well into recovery. These teams shaped CRS' response at the front lines of disaster last year.

Latin America and the Caribbean

In 2007, natural disasters hit hard in Latin America and the Caribbean. An 8.0-magnitude earthquake toppled homes, buildings and churches throughout a 100-mile stretch of coastal Peru in August. CRS responded with an initial pledge of \$100,000 and a commitment to help raise what ultimately amounted to more than \$2 million as part of a larger Caritas confederation effort to support our Caritas Peru partners. We brought lifesaving food, water, shelter, blankets, and cooking and hygiene kits to some 10,000 people in the weeks following the earthquake.

In September, Hurricane Felix blew through Nicaragua, decimating poor, isolated communities along the country's Caribbean coast. A week of heavy rains a month later left 80 percent of the Mexican state of Tabasco flooded. Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Noel—the deadliest storm to hit the Caribbean since Jeanne in 2004—lashed the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba, leaving tens of thousands of people homeless. After immediately pledging more than \$1.5 million, CRS and our partners moved swiftly to deliver food, blankets and hygiene kits. We then helped communities restore vital water and sanitation services, construct latrines, rebuild homes, and revive crops and fields.



Welcomed Relief

Last year's flooding left Nouou Amarou's house a pile of mud. Flood waters washed away sacks of millet, her main source of food. She wasn't alone: the floods displaced more than 50,000 in Niger.

Not only were homes destroyed, but fields were covered over and livestock killed. Some families were forced to live in abandoned school buildings and health clinics.

But thanks to CRS—and our local partner Caritas Development for Niger—bleach, blankets and kitchen kits were given to families like Nouou's.

"I am grateful that we have blankets to protect the children during the cold season," says Nouou. "The day of the distribution was a big party."

Left: In West Darfur, people displaced by violence pitch in to help CRS distribute food.



CRS and Caritas staff prepare buckets of essential items for flood victims in Haiti. Buckets serve double duty: as handy packing containers and, later, as water carriers.

Africa

Last fall, floods washed through West Africa, destroying farmland, killing livestock, wrecking houses, and ultimately affecting some 800,000 people. In close partnership with the U.S. government, CRS responded by distributing food and supplies. In Ghana, for example, CRS and the U.S. Agency for International Development worked together to supply Ghanaians with items such as corn, blankets, lanterns and mosquito nets. In Niger, CRS' Church partners distributed bowls, soap and water filters: basic items, but vital to thousands in need.

South Asia

The monsoon devastation last year was the worst in decades. Whole villages were submerged, families trapped, and nearly 4 million people displaced. CRS staff treaded through waist-high waters distributing relief supplies with our partners in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Together, we helped hundreds of thousands of people. Months later, our efforts evolved to include large-scale water and sanitation projects, health care and hygiene trainings, the rebuilding of homes and livelihoods, and disaster-preparedness efforts.

Rebuilding Hope and Homes

When the tsunami of December 26, 2004, rushed in to batter the Indonesian province of Aceh, it changed the landscape forever, altering the coastline and taking 150,000 lives. Three years later, the overwhelming generosity of CRS donors across America has created changes that are making lives whole again.

Dollars and coins collected in cans and envelopes by American Catholics have been transformed into more than 3,000 homes across Aceh province alone. Where there was once only devastation, now clinics and parks, schools and jobs are revitalizing communities.

To learn about the partnerships that have made this progress possible in Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka, visit tsunamiresponse.crs.org.



A CRS representative in Indonesia visits Aidun and his wife Ainun at their new home, built by the agency. The couple has expressed appreciation for the house's quality.

Partners for Peace



Photo by David Snyder/CRS

Traditional leaders learn conflict resolution and mediation through a CRS peacebuilding project.

Petar Prica could be bitter. He lost his business, his livelihood and a beloved family member during the ethnic violence that engulfed Yugoslavia in the 1990s. A Serb, Petar watched his town torn apart by fighting between Albanians and Serbs. Those tensions still simmer in Kosovo today, especially among those who, like Petar, saw family killed.

But Petar chose peace. Now a project manager for Catholic Relief Services in Kosovo, he works to reconcile young people in rival ethnic groups through projects like photography exhibits and essay contests.

Helping people find better ways to resolve conflicts is one way CRS strives to reduce suffering around the world. Often, people who were able to feed and shelter themselves find their years of effort undermined by violence: houses are burned, crops destroyed, and education cut short. CRS' peacebuilding programs teach divided groups how to talk to each other and offer income-generating activities to people who might otherwise become desperate.

When war does happen, CRS helps families rebuild. Promoting justice is a critical part of repairing torn social fabrics. During Liberia's 14-year civil war, massive human rights violations like rape and dismemberment were committed; the country is still dealing with the aftermath. Because many Liberians live in remote villages and don't have access to the formal justice system, they turn to local chiefs and village elders to resolve disputes. CRS is working at the community level to strengthen conflict resolution. Radio stations broadcast human rights messages in local languages to help Liberians find ways to resolve problems peacefully.

Finding Safe Haven

Over two million Iraqis have fled the sectarian violence in their country and are now starting over in the neighboring countries of Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. They need shelter, food and work, but they also need help coping with the traumatic experiences they lived through in Iraq.

CRS funds programs that support all these needs, from milk for the youngest refugees to counseling for those who have witnessed atrocities. In some cases, Iraqi women are in a double bind: They have fled violence in Iraq and also face physical abuse from their husbands. CRS supports shelters for these women and their children, offering a peaceful oasis so they can begin to heal.



Photo by Laura Sheahan/CRS

In northern Uganda, 140 “paralegals” trained by CRS partners are counseling community members in conflict resolution. Working through local Catholic parishes, these committed volunteers are helping hundreds of people resolve landownership issues as families return home after a lengthy war.

In Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Jordan, CRS funds programs for Iraqis fleeing the violence in their home country. As refugees in the big cities of the Middle East, Iraqis are hard-pressed to find work, pay rent, buy food and get health care. Through partner organizations like Caritas Lebanon, CRS bridges the gap by offering food coupons, free medical care and rent assistance.

CRS’ emergency assistance in Darfur helps families feed their children, students attend temporary schools and farmers plant crops. CRS is also on the ground in southern Sudan supporting communities as they begin again after 20 years of war with the north. In Colombia, where 40 years of internal conflict has created a population of refugees second only to Sudan’s, CRS is working with Church partners to promote peace through human rights education and conflict-resolution initiatives.

While the world may never be free from violence, CRS is working hard to help people find peaceful ways to solve problems, and to start anew after war strikes.



Photo by Debbie DeVoe/CRS

In West Darfur, CRS seed fairs help families affected by conflict to plant crops.

Vow of Peace

In East Timor, civil unrest drives thousands to seek safety in makeshift camps and empty buildings. Confrontations between local youth and village residents are widespread, forcing many to abandon their homes and communities.

But in the face of that violence, with CRS’ support, two community leaders took a vow of peace in a ceremony known as *Tara Bandu*. Residents gathered to witness the signing of the agreement: no more blades used in fighting, no more destruction of property, no more killing.

“With the *Tara Bandu*... people finally felt free to return home, children were able to resume school and small businesses reopened,” says one resident. To read more, visit crs.org/east-timor/finding-peace/.

In East Timor, youth from clashing villages covered this wall with peace murals.



Photo by CRS staff

Seeds of Promise

In Tanzania, a member of a farmers' group processes orange-fleshed sweet potatoes.



Photo by David Snydel for CRS

In the developing world, where farming is a way of life, one of the most effective ways to promote long-term change is through agriculture. Catholic Relief Services' agriculture programs focus on families and communities. Our goal is to use agricultural innovation as a way to improve overall health, education and economic stability. Innovations, especially when they are simple, can mean the difference between scratching out barely enough food to survive and reaping abundant harvests that let families thrive.

CRS partners with leading agricultural institutions such as the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture; generous donors like the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); and local organizations, including diocesan development offices, to bring life-changing advancements to poor farmers in 34 countries.

In Tanzania, the simple switch from white- to orange-fleshed sweet potatoes is improving people's health through better nutrition while also giving farmers the opportunity to earn more income by producing and

selling sweet-potato chips, flour and juice. Nurjanah, a young Acehnese farmer, harvested his first rice since the tsunami struck three years ago. He benefited from CRS' efforts to desalinate fields and provide local hybrid seeds for faster growth. In drought-stricken Lesotho, 68-year-old widower Julius Ncheche was able to return to his fields after receiving \$73 in vouchers at a CRS seed fair. He traded in his vouchers for a sickle, a carefully selected bag of sorghum and other high-quality seeds.



Photo by Sean Shigue for CRS

CRS community water projects give people access to clean, safe water.

Let It Rain

The mountainous terrain of Ethiopia is prone to severe land degradation. Poor, rural farms suffer both erosion and drought. When it finally rains, water pours down the hillside, taking away valuable soil. The Hararghe Catholic Secretariat,

one of CRS' primary partners here, is providing an innovative terracing program. Now, farmers welcome the rain, since it is held in check by terracing that allows the water to percolate into the soil and raise the water table closer to the surface.



CRS partnerships and innovations are also taking on regional problems. The USAID-funded Crop Crisis Control program has been helping to prevent a food shortage in the Great Lakes area of Africa by training farmers to identify and manage banana wilt and cassava mosaic disease. The six-country program also worked with farmers to grow disease-resistant cassava plants, from which cuttings could be distributed to at least 100,000 farming households to help them re-establish healthy fields and protect future harvests throughout the region. Thanks to a significant grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the fight against cassava diseases will continue for an additional four years.

Although improved techniques and materials can reap great rewards, they aren't enough. Farmers also require sufficient water for their crops to grow. In the Ethiopian village of Gende Haji, 80 farmers have doubled their crop yields and incomes after installing a pumping system that lets them water fields of lucrative vegetables. CRS works with the National Council of Catholic Women to bring safe, abundant water to villages in the semiarid region of Brazil. In the Philippines, Analiza Lithon can put on a good spread for her family—with plenty of vegetables and even some tilapia—thanks to the enormous tank of water that 40 households in her village now tap.

Partnerships with supporters in the United States also make a difference for poor farmers around the world. CRS Mexico partners with the dioceses of Mexicali and Tucson and the Arizona Interfaith Network to improve working conditions for produce farmers and farm laborers. Our partnerships with fair trade coffee and chocolate distributors in the United States help thousands of farming families to improve their lives and their futures in Bolivia, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Uganda and Vietnam.

This...is Ethiopia

In summer 2006, award-winning broadcaster Charles Osgood made his first trip to Africa, traveling with CRS to help us capture on video the difference our partnerships and projects are making for subsistence farmers and children affected by HIV.

"As a newsman I was certainly aware of the emergency assistance Catholic Relief Services provides in the wake of disasters," Mr. Osgood told us. "Over the last few years, I have had the privilege of learning even more about the help they offer people in the poorest nations of the world."



Living With Hope



To walk into any rural clinic supported by Catholic Relief Services is to understand the importance of the agency's partnerships in HIV. Local doctors, health care workers and volunteers serve people from their own communities, often using state-of-the-art equipment and supplies provided by global agencies. Without local connections, international commitments and a collaborative understanding of the needs, millions of people living with HIV would not have access to vital, high-quality services.

CRS has helped people with HIV for more than 20 years, almost since the pandemic began. With more than 250 HIV-related projects in 52 countries, the agency provides home-based care, education about the virus and its transmission, antiretroviral therapy, and comprehensive services for orphans and other children whose lives have been affected by HIV. The agency also advocates on behalf of the people it serves: CRS leaders testified twice before Congress on HIV-specific issues this year. None of this outreach would have been possible without the dedicated work of partners.

Local partnerships allow CRS to reach into individuals' homes. Groups like Jesus Cares Ministries, which works in a crowded community in Zambia's capital, recruit volunteers who walk dusty paths from home to home, visiting clients to provide basic services: maybe a good housecleaning or a bicycle ride to a doctor's appointment. They notice when a client's condition changes or when another family member isn't doing well, and provide care and advice.

Other partners, like Hospicio San Jose in Guatemala, offer a loving home and medical treatment for HIV-positive children, cultivate support groups for people affected by the virus, and provide outpatient services for clients. As importantly, the services offer hope and understanding to patients who regularly encounter fear and ignorance when discussing their HIV-positive diagnosis. "Without them, I would have died," said one client, a mother of five, about the members of her support group.

International partners step in with much-needed support. For example, with funding from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

Voices of Angels

The small chapel could barely contain the rhythms of a single drum accompanied by the students' voices. Young girls were dressed as angels complete with silver foil wings. Another group of girls wore outfits reminiscent of cheerleaders. Together, they filled the aisles with a spectacle of color and sound, faith and joy.

The chapel is in Ethiopia. The children are HIV-positive and orphans. The Missionaries of Charity, among our oldest partners, created this home and school, called Gift of Love, with CRS support. Visit crs.org/ethiopia/missionaries-charity-mass/ to read more.

At left, CRS President Ken Hackett visits with Sister Jan Maria and children at the Gift of Love, just outside of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.





Photo by David Snyder for CRS

A hatchery is one project of the CRS-supported Twatasha Multifunctional Center, which teaches people living with HIV in Zambia how to run businesses so they can support their families.

(PEPFAR)—through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Health Resources and Services Administration—CRS and our partners in the AIDSRelief consortium had provided treatment and care to more than 250,000 people affected by HIV by the end of fiscal year 2007: a jump of nearly 50 percent from a year earlier. Even as the numbers of people served are enormous, the support provided is intensely personal. In 2007, for example, CRS served more than 48,000 Ugandans through AIDSRelief. Each one has a story—like Betty Ayaa, an HIV-positive woman who was able to keep her youngest child from contracting the virus through a program designed to prevent mother-to-child transmission.

Partners also help ensure life-changing HIV programs will last. In two of the worst-affected regions of southern Africa, for example, governmental partners this year took over critical portions of CRS-supported programs. South Africa’s KwaZulu-Natal province decided to provide free antiretroviral drugs and HIV testing to selected AIDSRelief clinics in the province, and the Lesotho AIDS Commission agreed to fund a project CRS started for orphans and vulnerable children. In both places, the decisions will bolster the

The Batuke brothers lost their father to AIDS but receive psychological and educational support through the Diocese of Mongu, Zambia, supported by CRS.

agency’s ability to reach more people affected by the pandemic.

Our Church partners are ever-present around the world, providing care and support to HIV patients, their families, children and communities. As Father Peter Xu, first director of a CRS-supported HIV care and support center in Jilin Diocese, China, reflects: “I think that the greatest need in our community is to promote the sanctity of life and to spread the message of the dignity of the human person. This is a particularly important message to send to the community regarding people living with HIV and AIDS—even though they have an illness, their lives are still sacred and they have something unique to contribute to society.”



Photo by David Snyder for CRS

Auntie Bridget Goes to Washington

An HIV survivor herself, ‘Auntie Bridget,’ as she is known in Zambia, works for CRS teaching people about the virus and fighting the associated stigma. On World AIDS Day 2007, Bridget Chisenga had the opportunity to meet President Bush and to help put a human face to the “Lazarus effect” of antiretroviral therapy.

“I want Americans to realize just how significantly their generous contribution is improving people’s lives across the globe,” Bridget says of the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. “You are enabling miracles to happen each day.” Watch her video at crs.org/zambia/aidsrelief-video/.



Photo by Doug Kapustin, Baltimore Examiner and Washington Examiner

Living With Health



CRS Ethiopia partners with the Medical Missionaries of Mary to distribute monthly rations of wheat, cooking oil and corn-soy blend to people living with HIV.

It is a tragedy when a person dies from an illness that could have been prevented. Malaria, tuberculosis, waterborne diseases, malnutrition—these easily treatable health conditions take millions of lives every year. With our partners, Catholic Relief Services helps communities overcome dangerous, but preventable, illnesses like these while also promoting long-term health initiatives.

Malaria kills more than a million people a year in sub-Saharan Africa and costs the African economy billions of dollars. Yet it is so simple to prevent: Insecticide-treated bed nets and basic medications are simple solutions that could save thousands of lives every year. In The Gambia, CRS is implementing a major malaria prevention program that provides free bed nets and medications to families that cannot afford them. The program, which is supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, also works with caregivers and community health workers to ensure that malaria cases are detected early and treated effectively.

Many people in the United States consider tuberculosis a disease of the past. In the Philippines, however,

Healthy Deliveries

In the isolated western highlands of Honduras, where people are poor and far from health centers, deaths due to childbirth are a reality too many must face. Infant deaths—and the loss of their mothers—are heartbreaking for families, and have a long-term effect on the entire community. CRS works in the rural Honduran department of Intibuca to help

mothers deliver strong, healthy babies. We train midwives and provide them with health kits for emergencies. CRS also works with community leaders, helping them plan for medical emergencies and create social funds for women who can't afford transportation to medical centers.



It is not enough for families fleeing violence in Darfur to reach the relative haven of a camp. Danger follows them wherever they go in the forms of malnutrition, malaria and cholera.



the disease is endemic, with more than 130,000 people diagnosed each year. In the impoverished Maguindanao province, where tuberculosis is particularly prevalent, CRS works with the Integrated Provincial Health Office to promote early detection and reduce tuberculosis-related deaths. This project, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, is part of our regional effort to bring better, more effective services to communities suffering from high rates of this deadly disease.

Impure water supplies, contaminated with deadly bacteria and parasites, infect thousands of people with diarrhea and other life-threatening diseases every day. In Honduras, CRS is working in 79 communities to improve access to clean water and make waterborne illness a thing of the past. Water sanitation is also an integral aspect of all our emergency relief efforts. When South Asia was hit with an especially severe monsoon season this summer, CRS immediately began working with communities to help restore access to safe water facilities. Communities affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami now have clean water sources that are more convenient and sustainable than those they lost in the disaster.

In Kenya, malnutrition contributes to high infant mortality and poor childhood development. Breastfeeding babies from the time they are born until they turn 2 can make a profound difference in a child's ability to thrive. Yet cultural factors and lack of family support often make it difficult for Kenyan mothers to breastfeed their children. Working with communities in the Mbeere district, CRS has helped form 22 mother-to-mother support groups where women can talk, share and learn together. The project has seen a 66 percent increase in exclusive breastfeeding rates for infants during their first six months, a rate that significantly exceeds the country's national average increase of 13 percent.

All of CRS' health projects work to meet pervasive but treatable health challenges. We take a holistic approach, working with communities to foster long-term improvements to overall well-being. Together with partners, community leaders, families and individuals, we are helping build a healthier future worldwide.

Safety Nets in The Gambia

Malaria is the leading cause of death for children under age 5 in sub-Saharan Africa. One of the reasons is that most people cannot afford the \$7 cost of insecticide-treated bed nets. CRS is currently in the third year of a five-year malaria prevention project with fantastic results. In the project area, 53 percent of the population

now uses bed nets, up from 9 to 11 percent at the project's start.

After community volunteer Faye Jawra received her free nets, she told us, "Since we got the treated nets, we don't get bitten by mosquitoes anymore, which means we don't get malaria anymore, either."



Road to a Dream



Cooking Up Opportunity

Nine years ago, when she was 14, Rosenilda Santos dropped out of school, left home and went to live in a shack in the violent neighborhood of Recife, Brazil. She worked selling kabobs on the beach, earning about \$60 a month. It was barely enough to support herself and her daughter.

But Rosenilda's life changed when she entered a culinary school opened in October 2006 through a partnership between CRS, local organizations and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

"My life has changed now," says Rosenilda, who has a good job in a restaurant. Visit crs.org/brazil/culinary-institute/ to learn how education is making a difference for at-risk youth in Brazil.

While Catholic Relief Services is known for helping the world's neediest survive day to day, our work also addresses the root causes of poverty and injustice. CRS supports hardworking people around the world in their efforts to gain an education and earn a fair wage. Through unique partnerships and innovative approaches, we empower individuals and communities to obtain the knowledge and resources they need to overcome poverty and shape their futures.

In Zimbabwe, hope for the future comes in the form of goats, which CRS provides as part of a larger program. For poor rural families in this South African nation, animals mean savings for emergencies, as well as for everyday needs like sending children to school.

Through savings-led microfinance initiatives in India and the Caribbean, CRS helps thousands of people who live on less than a few dollars a day build their financial resources. Small groups come together to encourage each other to save a bit each week. Members, often female farmers, borrow from the group savings, giving Tanzanians like 50-year-old Elizabeth Kasemi the funds she needs to grow profitable chickpeas, or each of 12 Haitian women the money—over a three-year period—to buy a dairy cow.

In areas where the lack of economic opportunities forces people to abandon their farms and migrate in search of better lives, CRS is striving to create alternatives. In northern Mexico, CRS works in partnership with one of the largest apple growers in the United States. Together, we are helping a cooperative of 120 family farmers grow higher-quality apples and negotiate better prices for their harvests.

After the October 2005 earthquake struck Pakistan, CRS provided people with vouchers to purchase livestock and other important income-generating tools.

In Brazil, where poor workers from the impoverished northeastern region are lured into agricultural slave labor with promises of a better life, CRS, together with a network of partners, works to prevent both young and old from falling into the exploitative trap. Local partners provide services to newly freed laborers, including helping them and others who are at risk of being lured into slave labor find better ways to earn a living.

CRS takes a holistic approach in our work with these communities, focusing on both the local economy and education. By doing so, our work is combating such atrocities as human trafficking and child labor. We know that extreme poverty keeps the poorest and most vulnerable out of school. It's also increasingly clear that children who are not in school are more likely to become victims of human trafficking.

Across the globe, CRS is working to make access to a quality education a reality. In India, CRS supports rescue and recovery for girls and women who have been trafficked. We help them prepare for their reintegration into society with medical and psychological care, education, and job training. In northern Benin, CRS supports vocational schools so children—mostly girls—who have been rescued from trafficking can learn a trade. In Ecuador, we're helping to keep children out of the country's large flower and banana industries by providing books and uniforms. Alongside parents, teachers and students, we're working to improve school infrastructure and offering distance learning and technical training for teachers.



Photo by Elena Rososhenko/Pro Business | North

'I Love What I Do!'

"Please take my photo—I am so happy to have a job," says Olga, a Moldovan woman. In her former Soviet republic, one of the poorest countries in Europe, jobs are scarce. Girls who need them are often targeted by human traffickers for the sex trade.

CRS programs stop trafficking before it starts by giving young women career options. In Moldova, CRS has partnered with local businesses to provide paid training and guaranteed employment to over 1,000 young women. They learn the skills needed to be cashiers, bank tellers, seamstresses and more.

Olga now works in a bank and loves her job. "The salary I get allows me to help my parents in the village."



Photo by David Snyder for CRS

Every day, more than 500 children at Chipfiko primary school in rural Zimbabwe receive a nutritious meal thanks to CRS and partners in the Consortium for Southern Africa Food Security Emergency.

Partners at Home

Customers peruse the offerings at a Work of Human Hands sale on the campus of the Mount St. John Catholic retreat and conference center in Ohio.



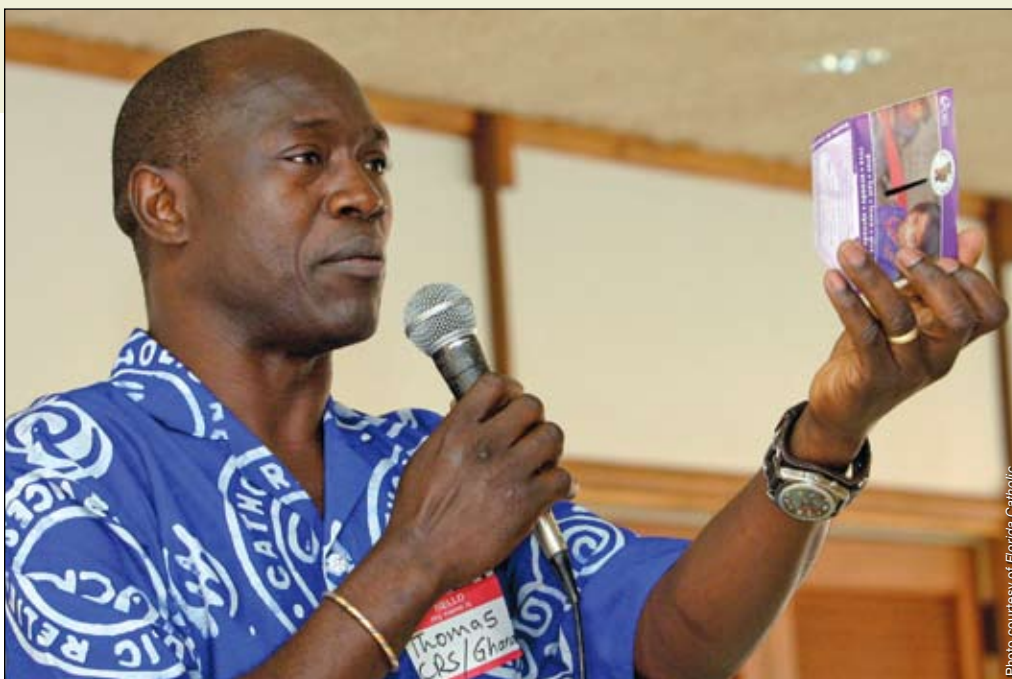
When Thomas Awiapo visits Catholic parishes and schools across the United States, his message moves people. Orphaned and abandoned at age 10, Thomas smelled lunch cooking at a CRS-supported school in his poor farming village in Ghana. A hot lunch lured him into school, and dedicated teachers and local Catholic priests kept him coming back.

Now a program manager for Catholic Relief Services Ghana, Thomas travels across the United States every year thanking CRS supporters for the gift of education and promoting solidarity between Catholics in the United States and the poor overseas. Seeing how CRS programs benefit real people like Thomas helps Catholics appreciate the importance of their involvement as parishioners, students and citizens.

CRS reaches hundreds of students a year through unique partnerships with Catholic schools and colleges. In 2007, we launched the Global Solidarity Network: Study eBroad program. Using Internet and teleconferencing technologies, students and faculty in the United States connect with CRS staff overseas to discuss topics like food security, AIDS and migration.

We also reach out to students through partnerships with their teachers. When Julie Hagerty, an English teacher from Cincinnati, traveled to Kosovo as part of CRS' Frontiers of Justice program, she learned about ongoing ethnic tensions there—and about herself. “I have a greater understanding now of our connectedness, and I see clearly that we are all one human family,” Julie says. For 10 years, CRS has partnered with the National Catholic Education Association to send Catholic secondary-school teachers overseas so they can explore issues of social justice and bring their experiences back to the classroom.

Stephanie Bosse, a brand-new CRS Fair Trade Ambassador from Casselberry, Florida, immediately realized the impact of her thoughtful purchases when she visited Café Justo, a coffee growers' cooperative in Mexico. Seeing the economic opportunities created through our fair trade partnerships reinforced her passion for encouraging other Catholics in her community to buy fairly traded products through the CRS Fair Trade program.



Former CRS beneficiary Thomas Awiapo of CRS Ghana travels around the United States every year, telling American Catholics: “You were God’s language of love to me. God’s language of hope to me. God’s language of justice to me.”

Photo courtesy of Florida Catholic



Photo by Jacqueline DeCarlo/CRS

The CRS Legislative Network is another way for U.S. Catholics to live their faith in solidarity with the poor overseas. In 2007, more than 9,600 network members sent e-mails to Congress, bringing the Catholic voice to bear on legislative issues concerning hunger, poverty and peace.

And 2007 brought us into another new partnership to reach hundreds of young Catholics across America with messages about global poverty, justice and the CRS mission. We joined Adore Ministries for a national music and worship tour featuring Christian recording artists Matt Maher, Kelly Pease and Josh Blakesley. To experience the sights and sounds of a concert at St. Bede Catholic Church in Williamsburg, Virginia, visit <http://education.crs.org/2097/>.



Photo by Matthew Dawson/CRS

NCCW 60th Anniversary

Since 1946, CRS' partnership with the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) has helped raise \$12 million for programs that help women. Consisting of over 5,000 Catholic women's groups, the NCCW promotes the triumphs of women who struggle to survive and care for their families in some of the world's poorest places.

Our fruitful partnership was marked by a gathering of NCCW and CRS leaders in Baltimore in December 2006. *Water for Life*, a video produced to mark the 60th anniversary, earned a 2007 Aurora Gold Award. To order a free copy of *Water for Life*, visit education.crs.org/stewardship/water_for_life/.

Above, women work together to draw water from a CRS sponsored borehole in Fasi, Malawi.

Joining Forces with Silicon Valley

Technology contributes significantly to advancements in agriculture, health care and emergency response. To help harness the promise of science for the developing world, in 2007 CRS joined the Tech Museum Awards, one of the premier humanitarian awards programs, as the first faith-based Global Outreach Partner.

This partnership gives us access to global innovations and helps us identify and nominate partners

who are developing inventions to address some of the world's most pressing problems.

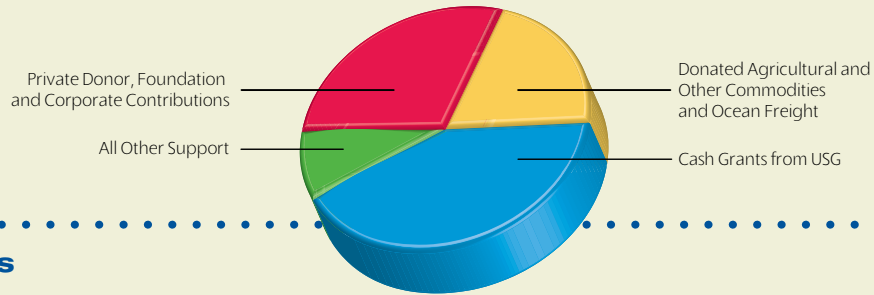
At the November 2007 awards gala, CRS President Ken Hackett recognized the importance of technology in the humanitarian arena: "Innovations need to be accessible throughout the developing world in order to foster sustainable development and positive social change."



Photo by Charlotte Florito Photography

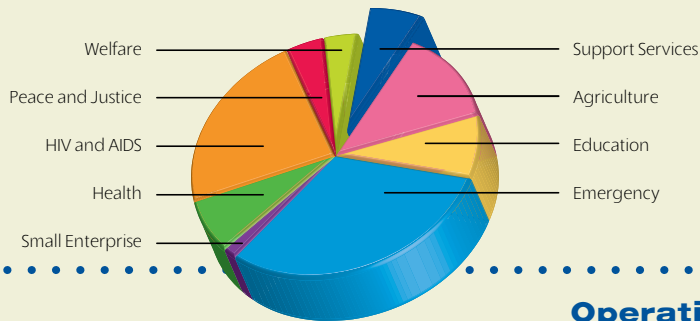
Financial Summary

Year ended September 30, 2007
(In Thousands)



Operating Revenues

Private donor, foundation and corporate contributions	\$ 152,886	29.06%
Donated agricultural and other commodities and ocean freight	108,195	20.57%
Cash grants from USG	216,378	41.13%
All other support	48,583	9.24%
Totals	\$ 526,042	100.00%



Operating Expenses

Agriculture	\$ 82,054	13.74%
Education	50,276	8.42%
Emergency	187,270	31.35%
Small Enterprise	9,627	1.61%
Health	46,223	7.74%
HIV and AIDS	135,892	22.75%
Peace and Justice	25,417	4.26%
Welfare	23,301	3.90%
Program Services	560,060	93.77%
Management and General	14,179	2.37%
Public Awareness	4,389	0.73%
Fundraising	18,637	3.13%
Support Services	37,205	6.23%
Totals	\$ 597,265	100.00%

McGladrey & Pullen

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Report from Independent Accountants

To the Board of Directors of Catholic Relief Services —
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the statement of financial position of Catholic Relief Services — United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (CRS) as of September 30, 2007, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year ended September 30, 2007; and in our report dated March 12, 2008, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements. In our opinion, the information set forth in the accompanying condensed financial statements is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements from which it has been derived.

McGladrey & Pullen, LLP

Baltimore, Maryland
March 12, 2008

McGladrey & Pullen, LLP is a member firm of RSM International,
an affiliation of separate and independent legal entities.

In the interest of stewardship, CRS decided not to include the financial notes in the 2007 Annual Report. What follows are the statements of financial position, activities, cash flows and the statement of functional expenses.

The complete financial statements, audited by RSM McGladrey, LLP, are available at <http://www.crs.org/about/finance/pdf/2007-financials.pdf> or by calling 1.888.277.7575.

Statement of Financial Position

September 30, 2007

(With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended September 30, 2006)

(In Thousands)

Assets	2007	2006
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 66,120	\$ 80,573
Accounts receivable and other assets	41,500	36,071
Construction trust assets	2,740	18,872
Investments	136,113	166,080
Segregated investments	45,494	42,953
Undistributed commodity contributions	21,691	23,220
Land, building and equipment, net	51,366	33,748
Total assets	\$ 365,024	\$ 401,517
Liabilities And Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 72,453	\$ 48,931
Advances received for programs	29,431	26,495
Deferred revenue	21,691	23,220
Annuities payable	36,379	35,683
Long term debt	40,091	34,551
Total liabilities	200,045	168,880
Net assets		
Unrestricted	61,137	69,882
Temporarily restricted	98,658	158,203
Permanently restricted	5,184	4,552
Total net assets	164,979	232,637
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 365,024	\$ 401,517

Statement of Activities

Year Ended September 30, 2007

(With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended September 30, 2006)

(In Thousands)

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	
				2007	2006
Operating Revenues					
Private donor, foundation and corporate contributions:					
Catholic Relief Services collection	\$ 12,332	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,332	\$ 11,266
Operation Rice Bowl appeal	-	7,044	-	7,044	6,625
Contributions	73,823	39,772	-	113,595	144,498
Bequests	14,905	-	-	14,905	10,931
In-kind contributions	5,010	-	-	5,010	7,652
Total contributions	106,070	46,816	-	152,886	180,972
Government, international organizations and other exchange transactions:					
Donated agricultural and other commodities and ocean freight	108,195	-	-	108,195	148,946
Grants and agreements:					
United States government	216,378	-	-	216,378	205,447
Other	38,052	-	-	38,052	23,363
Total	362,625	-	-	362,625	377,756
Investment and other income	5,281	5,250	-	10,531	10,619
Net assets released from restrictions	111,742	(111,742)	-	-	-
Total operating revenues	585,718	(59,676)	-	526,042	569,347
Operating Expenses					
Program services	560,060	-	-	560,060	561,357
Supporting services:					
Management and general	14,179	-	-	14,179	12,548
Public awareness	4,389	-	-	4,389	5,752
Fund raising	18,637	-	-	18,637	17,380
Total supporting services	37,205	-	-	37,205	35,680
Total operating expenses	597,265	-	-	597,265	597,037
Change in net assets from operations	(11,547)	(59,676)	-	(71,223)	(27,690)
Non-Operating Revenues and (Expenses)					
Endowments	-	-	248	248	605
Net change in annuities, trusts and pooled income fund	1,374	919	177	2,470	1,942
Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	8,050	(788)	207	7,469	1,460
SFAS 158 Defined benefit plan adjustment	(6,622)	-	-	(6,622)	-
Total non-operating revenues and expenses, net	2,802	131	632	3,565	4,007
Change in net assets	(8,745)	(59,545)	632	(67,658)	(23,683)
Net assets, beginning of year	69,882	158,203	4,552	232,637	256,320
Net assets, end of year	\$ 61,137	\$ 98,658	\$ 5,184	\$ 164,979	\$ 232,637

Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended September 30, 2007

(With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended September 30, 2006)

(In Thousands)

	2007	2006
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Change in net assets	\$ (67,658)	\$ (23,683)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used in by operating activities:		
Depreciation	6,470	6,404
Loss on disposal of land, building and equipment	426	333
Realized gain on sales of investments	(8,253)	(706)
Unrealized loss (gain) on investments	623	(754)
Contributions restricted for long-term investment	(248)	(605)
Changes in assets and liabilities		
(Increase) decrease in:		
Accounts receivable and other assets	(5,429)	(249)
Undistributed commodity contributions	1,529	2,519
Increase (decrease) in:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	23,522	6,022
Advances received for programs	2,936	(6,064)
Deferred revenue	(1,529)	(2,619)
Net cash used in operating activities	(47,611)	(19,402)
Cash Flows From Investing Activities		
Proceeds from sale of land, building and equipment	426	527
Purchase of land, building and equipment	(24,940)	(10,316)
Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments	345,793	352,173
Purchase of investments	(310,737)	(329,212)
Change in construction trust assets	16,132	(18,872)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	26,674	(5,700)
Cash Flows From Financing Activities		
Proceeds from long term debt	6,300	21,613
Principal payments on long-term debt	(760)	(1,520)
Increase in annuities payable, net	696	1,195
Receipts restricted for long-term investment	248	605
Net cash provided by financing activities	6,484	21,893
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(14,453)	(3,209)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	80,573	83,782
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 66,120	\$ 80,573
Supplemental Disclosure Of Cash Flow Information		
Cash payments for interest	\$ 835	\$ 226

Statement of Functional Expenses

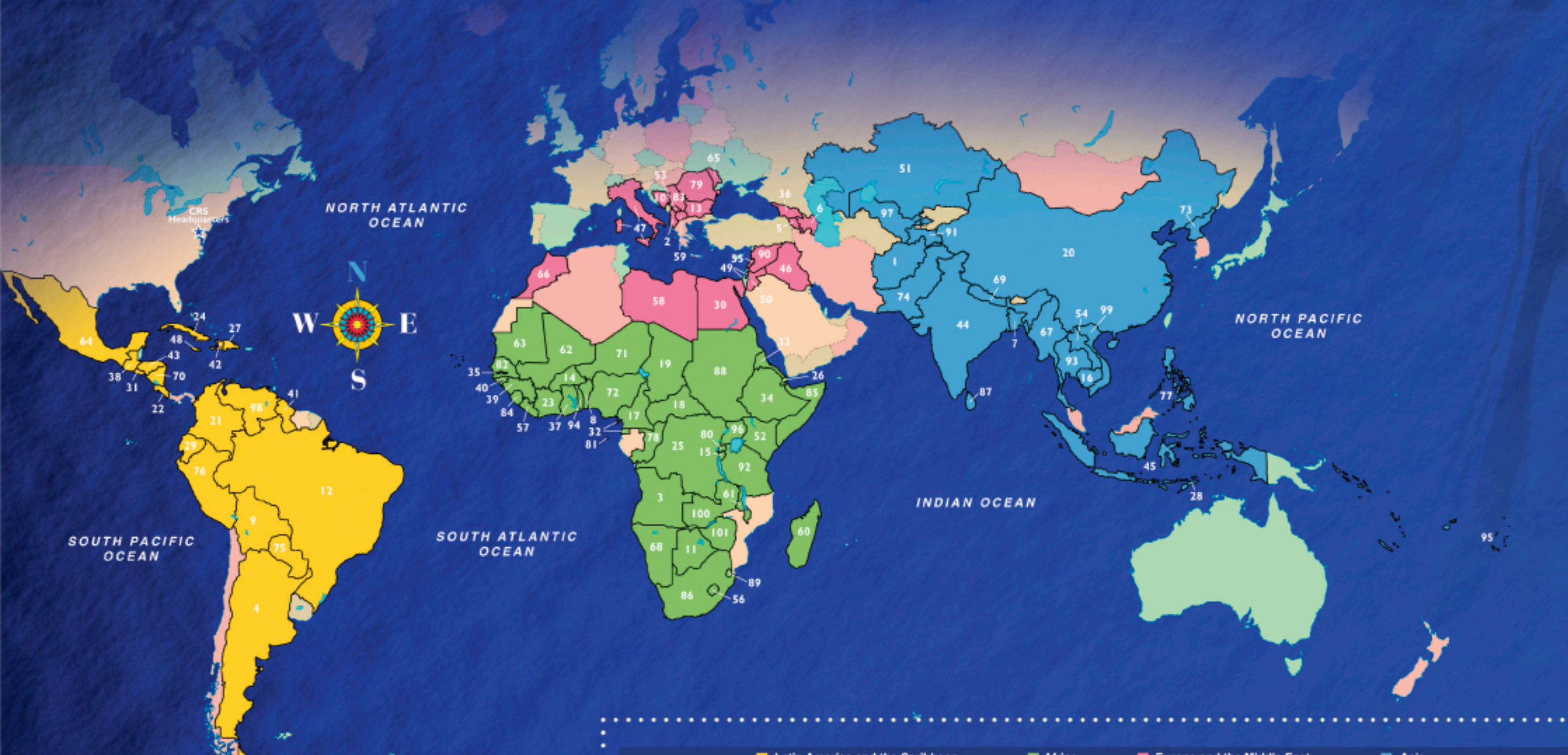
Year Ended September 30, 2007

(With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended September 30, 2006)

(In Thousands)

Description	Agriculture	Education	Emergency	Small Enterprise	Health	HIV and AIDS	Peace and Justice	Welfare	Program Services	
									2007	2006
Program Services										
Salaries and related benefits	\$ 16,778	\$ 11,404	\$ 32,752	\$ 2,710	\$ 8,716	\$ 24,675	\$ 5,677	\$ 5,171	\$ 107,883	\$ 98,110
Contracting and professional fees	1,728	705	34,022	483	858	1,431	830	210	40,267	17,597
Telecommunications and postage	636	323	1,405	91	374	643	366	204	4,042	3,898
Supplies, office expenses and other	4,761	2,460	4,202	-	1,292	5,811	1,318	2,207	22,051	15,797
Occupancy	1,674	1,049	2,039	370	820	1,789	441	672	8,854	7,765
Vehicle and equipment	2,320	1,086	3,151	186	1,012	3,432	864	608	12,659	13,497
Travel, training and representation	3,616	2,602	4,709	579	2,089	6,939	2,556	762	23,852	20,061
Warehousing and freight	7,924	7,640	13,504	4	9,181	2,399	291	4,454	45,397	76,883
Publicity	9	4	7	-	-	2	2	1	25	45
Advances to implementing partners	25,385	14,712	51,613	4,804	14,409	67,011	11,927	5,051	194,912	190,923
Food, other commodities and in-kind contributions	16,935	8,151	39,774	-	7,331	18,749	155	3,038	94,133	110,748
Depreciation	288	140	92	400	141	3,011	990	923	5,985	6,033
Total expenses	\$ 82,054	\$ 50,276	\$ 187,270	\$ 9,627	\$ 46,223	\$ 135,892	\$ 25,417	\$ 23,301	\$ 560,060	\$ 561,357

Description	Management and General	Public Awareness	Fund Raising	Supporting Services		Operating Expenses	
				2007	2006	2007	2006
Supporting Services							
Salaries and related benefits	\$ 9,873	\$ 2,170	\$ 6,566	\$ 18,609	\$ 15,106	\$ 126,492	\$ 113,216
Contracting and professional fees	1,623	525	2,890	5,038	5,206	45,305	22,803
Telecommunications and postage	556	27	3,656	4,239	4,408	8,281	8,306
Supplies, office expenses and other	190	104	4,445	4,739	4,672	26,790	20,469
Occupancy	260	120	284	664	871	9,518	8,636
Vehicle and equipment	15	47	73	135	265	12,794	13,762
Travel, training and representation	1,138	157	568	1,863	1,760	25,715	21,821
Warehousing and freight	40	-	21	61	60	45,458	76,943
Publicity	4	1,227	133	1,364	2,895	1,389	2,940
Advances to implementing partners	3	5	-	8	66	194,920	190,989
Food, other commodities and in-kind contributions	-	-	-	-	-	94,133	110,748
Depreciation	477	7	1	485	371	6,470	6,404
Total expenses	\$ 14,179	\$ 4,389	\$ 18,637	\$ 37,205	\$ 35,680	\$ 597,265	\$ 597,037



Remembering Mother Teresa

On the 10th anniversary of Mother Teresa's death on September 5, 1997, CRS remembered her legacy and our 57-year partnership with the Missionaries of Charity. Experience the reflections of CRS staff at crs.org/india/remembering-mother-teresa/.



Programs Around the World

Latin America and the Caribbean			Africa			Europe and the Middle East			Asia					
1 Afghanistan	16 Cambodia	28 East Timor	43 Honduras	57 Liberia	73 North Korea	87 Sri Lanka	2 Albania	17 Cameroon	29 Ecuador	44 India	58 Libya	74 Pakistan	88 Sudan	
3 Angola	18 Central African Republic	30 Egypt	45 Indonesia	59 Macedonia	75 Paraguay	89 Swaziland	4 Argentina	19 Chad	31 El Salvador	46 Iraq	60 Madagascar	76 Peru	90 Syria	
5 Armenia	20 China	32 Equatorial Guinea	47 Italy	61 Malawi	77 Philippines	91 Tajikistan	6 Azerbaijan	21 Colombia	33 Eritrea	48 Jamaica	62 Mali	78 Republic of the Congo	92 Tanzania	
7 Bangladesh	22 Costa Rica	34 Ethiopia	49 Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza	63 Mauritania	79 Romania	93 Thailand	8 Benin	23 Côte d'Ivoire	35 The Gambia	64 Mexico	65 Moldova	80 Rwanda	94 Togo	
9 Bolivia	24 Cuba	36 Georgia	50 Jordan	66 Morocco	81 São Tomé and Príncipe	95 Tonga	10 Bosnia and Herzegovina	25 Democratic Republic of the Congo	37 Ghana	67 Myanmar	82 Senegal	83 Serbia	96 Uganda	
11 Botswana	26 Djibouti	38 Guatemala	51 Kazakhstan	68 Namibia	84 Sierra Leone	97 Uzbekistan	12 Brazil	27 Dominican Republic	39 Guinea	69 Nepal	85 Somalia	98 Venezuela	99 Vietnam	
13 Bulgaria	40 Guinea-Bissau	41 Guyana	52 Kenya	70 Nicaragua	86 South Africa	100 Zambia	14 Burkina Faso	42 Haiti	44 India	71 Niger	101 Zimbabwe	15 Burundi	45 Indonesia	72 Nigeria

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* ACR = Acting Country Representative

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DRD = Deputy Regional Director

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SRR = Subregional Representative

† Zonal Representative: Paul Townsend

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Diocese of Rockford
Mr. Thomas McKenna
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A New Home in Baltimore

Summer 2007 saw dramatic evidence of CRS' growing vision: a move to our new World Headquarters in Baltimore's west side landmark, the former Stewart's department store. "The last decade has brought tremendous growth," says Michael Wiest, CRS executive vice president for charitable giving. "Stewart's is the most frugal solution to our needs."

With the highest standards of stewardship, both fiscal and environmental, the space was renovated to accommodate the current staff of 340, with room for expansion. Specialized features include a "situation room" to enhance coordination of emergency relief operations among a worldwide staff of over 4,000. At the heart of the building is St. Stephen's Chapel, named for the first martyr of the Church, who was one of seven deacons ordained by the apostles to minister to the poor.



“Those who are in
a position to help others
will realize that
in doing so
they themselves
receive help...”

– Pope Benedict XVI, God is Love



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