

Fall 2011

CRS/Philadelphia Greetings



Dear Friends,

As we prepare to move into a new season and the start of a new school year, I am writing to share my thanks to the many individuals, parishes and schools who have been a part of this year's local Catholic Relief Services activities. The work of CRS is supported by the Regional office located in Radnor, PA, under the direction of Maureen McCullough, Esq. and her very capable staff. Locally, we are also blessed to have a **CRS committee** with members from across the Archdiocese who share the passion of CRS to break the cycle of poverty and injustice that darkens much of the developing world. Our hope is to expand the committee in the upcoming year.

The focus of the committee has been in the areas of **Advocacy, Operation Rice Bowl and Fair Trade** efforts. The advocacy committee meets throughout the year. A more detailed description is on the back page. The Fair Trade and Rice Bowl committees meet during Advent and Lent. **If you are interested in becoming involved in the work of Catholic Relief Services, please contact me at aayella@ndsarch.org** and we will be delighted to welcome you.

RICE BOWL COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

To remind people that **25%** of the Operation Rice Bowl donations remain in the Archdiocese, the CRS committee kicked off Operation Rice Bowl for the first time with a special event at **St. Katharine Drexel Parish Food Cupboard in Chester**. Bishop John McIntyre joined us and blessed the rice bowls and those gathered.

Sr. Mary Ellen Broderick, IHM shared how Operation Rice Bowl touches the lives of families right in our own community. Students from **Drexel Newman Academy** and **Holy Child Academy** shared stories of individuals and families touched by Rice Bowl and prayed on their behalf. Another first time event took place at **St. John the Evangelist School** in Morrisville (see below) where students kicked off Rice Bowl in their school during Catholic School s Week. Special thanks to Father Michael Lee, Mrs. Mary Kay Hennessy and **St. Norbert Parish and School** community for reinvigorating their Rice Bowl efforts this year, as well.



CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES PHILADELPHIA

One Human Family

2011 Operation Rice Bowl



Operation Rice Bowl 2011 has been one of the most successful in the past ten years. Individuals from parishes and schools across the Archdiocese collected over \$320,000 this Lenten season. Student Council members from St. Dominic School (left), as well as, students from St. Pius' PREP proudly offered their Rice Bowl donations!

In addition to the donations, the awareness raised through Operation Rice Bowl is a real blessing. Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that our top priority is solidarity in the human family. What better way to join in solidarity with those in need than through prayer, fasting, and sharing our resources!



Lent 2012

In preparation for Lent 2012, CRS will be highlighting the following countries:



**Week 1- Madagascar
Agriculture**



**Week 2- Vietnam-
Education**



**Week 3 -El Salvador-
Water/Sanitation**



**Week 4-Zambia-
Microfinance**



**Week 5-India-
Mother/Child health**



Week 6- USA-

Special thanks to the speakers for our Lenten series at the Archdiocesan Office Center and to Harry Williamson, Jack McGill and Carmela Mele of **Williamson Dining Services** for donating the soup and bread each week of our five week series.

Across the Archdiocese



In addition to the outstanding donations, recognition goes to the parishes who organized Lenten Simple Suppers for the first time. Pictured above is the Rice Bowl dinner held at **St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Springfield**. Under the leadership of **Madelyn McBride**, Coordinator of Religious Education, the dinner drew a wide variety of parishioners, including many families.



Rice Bowl committee member, **Sue Torelli** (left), assists a young student from **St. John the Evangelist School** in assembling his Rice Bowl as part of the kick-off during Catholic Schools Week. Special thanks to **Mrs. Sharon Montgomery and Monsignor Joseph Prior** for their outstanding support!

Rice Bowl committee member, **Stephanie Cipolla** (right) organized a Lenten series with the **University of Pennsylvania Catholic Student Association**. Her series has helped raise awareness of the universal mission of the church to work on behalf of our struggling brothers and sisters.



Fair Trade Corner by Cheryl Mrazik

Have you ever wondered where the products you purchase really come from? Or where the money spent on these purchases really goes? Fair Trade can help answer both of these questions.

The **CRS Fair Trade** program gives Catholics the opportunity to live out their faith through global solidarity in their purchases of products such as coffee, chocolate, and crafts. CRS Fair Trade works to ensure that producers make a fair wage, have safe working conditions, and receive technical and financial assistance. CRS also has partners in the US, committed to economic justice, who sell Fair Trade products and have established long-term relationships with producers based on mutual respect. In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, a committee of members was formed in 2009 in order to support and advance Fair Trade efforts in the Archdiocese. We are looking expand membership in the committee for the coming year, and we invite all who are interested in learning more to attend a meeting of the committee in October. CRS Fair Trade products and educational activities can be used at home, in your parish, office, or school. Come learn more about opportunities to live in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world! If you are interested in attending the meeting, please contact Anne Ayella at aayella@ndsarch.org.

Cheryl Mrazik is a CRS Advocacy and Fair Trade Program Officer in our region.

**Fair Trade Conference
September 9-11
Hub Center-
Philadelphia**

[http://
www.transfairusa.org/get-
involved/blog/fair-trade-
towns-and-universities-
national-conference](http://www.transfairusa.org/get-involved/blog/fair-trade-towns-and-universities-national-conference)



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*Glory be to Him whose power
working in us can do
infinitely more than we can
ask or imagine.*

www.crs.org

CRS' Advocacy Committee

by Marge Vance

The Catholic Relief Services Advocacy Subcommittee of the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic region was formed about a year and a half ago. The subcommittee is composed of several members from area parishes, as well as, Cheryl Mrazik, a CRS program officer in the region.

The committee meets every 6 weeks at the CRS Regional office in Radnor, PA. Since its inception, the committee has worked on issues such as Immigration Reform, including the DREAM Act, the Global Food Security Act, poverty-focused international assistance, and various Action Alerts from CRS and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). As part of the efforts, committee members have also made several visits to area legislators.

Because of the importance of the work, the committee is looking to expand membership. Please join us in shaping policies and practices that affect our global family, and raise your voice in solidarity with the world's poor. If you are not able to attend meetings but are interested in joining the mailing list to receive "Action Alerts", contact **Anne Ayella at aayella@ndsarch.org**. The advocacy committee is a low-key, friendly group that is committed to advocating for the social teachings of the Church. Please consider joining us this year.

