

CRS Parish Ambassador Corps

May Greetings!

May 2016

Dear CRS Parish Ambassadors,

What a rich time it is in both the Church and in our PAC community! As we wrap up our Spring retreats and look toward planning for the next pastoral year, let us pray for the intercession of our Mother Mary and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As always, please let me and your Diocesan Coordinators know if there is anything we can do to better support your ministries.

Peace,

Rachel Malinowski

Words of Hope

“In imitation of Mary, we are called to become bearers of Christ and witnesses to his love” — Pope Francis, Angelus, 12/8/15

Upcoming Webinars

Date & Time	Title	Description
May 11 @ 2:00PM EST/ 11:00AM PST Join Here	Hosting Helping Hands 101 <i>*Please note that Helping Hands is not available in the Seattle area.</i>	Rachael Holmes will explain how to host a CRS Helping Hands event.
May 24 @ 2:00PM EST/ 11:00AM PST Join Here	Continuing to Care for Our Common Home	Jeff Korgen will help us explore ways to ensure that Pope Francis’ message in Laudato Si doesn’t fade with time.
June 7 @ 2:00PM EST/ 11:00AM PST Join Here	Planning for the Pastoral Year	Genevieve Jordan Laskey, Resource Development Specialist, will give an overview of resources for next year.

PAC Webinar Library

Want to catch up on our 20-minute PAC webinars? Visit our [PAC Webinar Library](#) to watch the recordings!

Resources for Your Ministry

Responding to the Ecuador Earthquake

These [resources](#) allow you to pray, learn, act, and give in response to the Ecuador earthquake.

Prayer to Mary for the Month of May

Here is a prayer to [Mary, Mother of All Nations](#).

Resources for Service Immersion and Mission Trips

Check out these brand new CRS [resources](#) that help participants reflect before, during, and after service immersion and mission trips!

Easter Season Memes

Share Easter joy with these [memes](#) for each Sunday of Easter that pair a line from the Sunday readings with an image of CRS’ work. Available in English and Spanish.

CRS News

CRS Responds to the Earthquake in Ecuador

[CRS Provides Shelter, Water, Hygiene to Ecuador Earthquake Victims](#)

Largest Ever Tech for Development Conference

[Largest Ever Tech for Development Conference May 16-19 Nairobi](#)

Sharing Our Stories

Reflections on CRS Rice Bowl

By Jean Witzke, Jeannie Rowe, Pamela Mignona, Marcia Granito & Linda Shenk, Ss. Robert and William Parish, Diocese of Cleveland

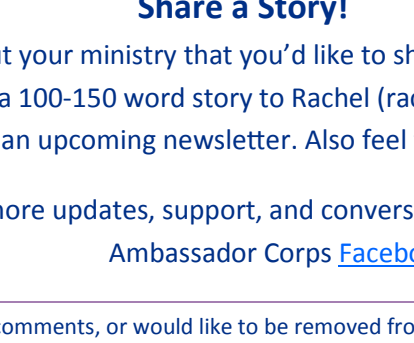
The sound of whooping and hollering you hear is the happy dance at Ss. Robert and William Parish being done by Fr. John Betters, Pastor, Parochial Vicar Fr. Scott Goodfellow, and the members of the CRS Parish Ambassadors. The occasion is the result of our Rice Bowl collection thus far: **10x more than the previous year, and still counting!!!** Using the tools offered by the CRS Rice Bowl website, our team, led by Fr. Scott, used bulletin inserts, Mass petitions, and personal reflections offered by each ambassador on the work of CRS. A meatless meal, featuring 5 countries, using Stories of Hope videos, and modeling the Solidarity Walk, was also offered.

But it is really our Ss. Robert and William School, its staff and students, who became true advocates for the disadvantaged, not only overseas, but in our community. The faculty religion committee dedicated themselves this year to the Rice Bowl project. Through their leadership the iPad, iPhone, “i”-generation became immersed in the difficulties of life in the countries CRS serves. Twenty minutes of silence was observed during lunch each Monday, with that time reserved for Stories of Hope videos and readings, followed by silent reflection. The children were encouraged to participate with offerings to the Rice Bowl, and to collect non-perishables for our local Hunger Center. The lunchroom featured the poster of a child sitting at an empty table, representing all the Stories of Hope children. Each donated item earned a “can” on the table. The results were incredible! Literally hundreds of items were donated to the Euclid Hunger Center.

In addition, the students wrote essays on what it meant to them to hear the stories and to be advocates.

The culmination of this Lenten lesson in compassion, advocacy, and almsgiving ended with two children from each grade level bringing their offerings to the altar during the final Mass before Easter break. Our young and strong Fr. Scott could not lift the offerings basket! The school children contributed a total of \$1,456.01!

As CRS Parish Ambassadors, we know there is much work yet to be done, but we feel inroads have been made in our parish in promoting awareness and support of CRS.



Share a Story!

Have a story about your ministry that you’d like to share with the whole PAC community? Email a 100-150 word story to Rachel (rachel.malinowski@crs.org) to be published in an upcoming newsletter. Also feel free to include a picture!



For more updates, support, and conversation, join the CRS Parish Ambassador Corps [Facebook group!](#)

If you have questions, comments, or would like to be removed from this mailing list, please email rachel.malinowski@crs.org.