

CRS Collection: 'Touch a Hungry World'

Italy. El Salvador. Cambodia.

Just three of the places in this strife-torn world being helped by Catholic Relief Services. Many stand by, more than ready to help.

This weekend the annual CRS collection will provide the opportunity.

Catholic Relief Services is the overseas aid and development agency for American Catholics.

Ongoing projects sponsored by CRS include agricultural production, marketing, and nutrition education.

The agency also donates food and shelter to the helpless and supports mother-child nutrition programs, food for work programs and school lunch projects.

Last year the Rochester diocese donated a total of \$93,653. Lourdes Perez-Albuerne, coordinator for the International Justice and Peace Commission and director of CRS for the diocese, said, "We hope this year there will be an increase in the collection since the needs have definitely increased."

CRS played an important role in the aftermath of the earthquake in southern Italy last year. Thousands of people were left homeless and the danger of disease was eminent.

Some 93,000 pounds of blankets, baby layettes and water purification tablets were airlifted to the devastated area almost overnight. A cash grant program to help the elderly was also started. In addition, CRS began to support a hastily opened convalescent home which cared for people of all ages in the months following the quake.

Now CRS is operating a long-term assistance project. Modular housing and community centers are being constructed in some of the hardest hit areas.

Last Spring, CRS established the Archbishop Romero-El Salvador Memorial Relief Fund in honor of the slain archbishop. Contributions to the fund totaled \$160,000 and were used to assist Salvadoreans both in the war-torn country and in other Central American countries to which they have fled.

Additional assistance has provided for housing, emergency medical care,



Msgr. Robert Coll, CRS assistant executive director, speaks with an Italian earthquake victim in Lioni above. At right is an example of the devastation the Italian earthquake caused.



Children of El Salvador get nutritious food through funds donated to CRS.

employment and legal assistance for displaced Salvadoreans.

A special effort is being made by CRS this year to raise the awareness of the social and economic conditions of less privileged people in Latin America.

CRS is working to im-

plement an educational awareness campaign with people in the U.S. that will focus on the plight of those living in Latin America and how best to solve these problems.

To provide this assistance CRS will establish a special development fund, known as the Latin America Development Fund (LADEF).

Perez said that the Romero Memorial funds are nearly depleted and there is still much work to be done. It is hoped that these monies will be donated during the annual appeal.

Bishop Matthew Clark has urged people in the diocese to "be as generous as possible and enable CRS to continue its work so needed in our world today."

Pickets Target Geneva Hospital

Geneva — Geneva Area Right to Life has started picketing Geneva General Hospital to protest its abortion policy.

A press release from the pro-life group stated that the hospital "must not become the new 'abortion mill' of the Finger Lakes. Presently, over 100 unborn babies are killed yearly, with the numbers increasing. This hospital will

allow doctors to kill babies who are as late as six months gestation."

The release stated, "We want the Board of Directors of (Geneva General Hospital) to forbid the use of the hospital for abortions, since such an act neither heals nor saves lives. Such acts do kill helpless, defenseless, voiceless, not yet born human beings."



A nutrition program is being taught in drought-affected northern Kenya.

Bishop Clark Asks for CRS Support

My dear People,

Next Sunday you will have the opportunity to touch the lives of millions of less fortunate people of the world as you contribute to Catholic Relief Services Annual Appeal Collection.

One of the facets of CRS's overseas work is its rapid and compassionate response to the victims of natural disaster. When on Nov. 23, 1980, a severe earthquake struck the southern region of Italy and caused the widespread destruction of lives and property, CRS went to work swiftly. Within days it had airlifted 93,000 pounds of relief supplies for the victims and has established a special emergency fund. Our diocese contributed generously to this special fund to the amount of \$37,727 which individuals sent to the Diocesan Mission Office for this purpose. I am deeply touched by your generosity on this occasion and thank you.

Another of the programs of CRS directs aid to refugees throughout the world. CRS assumed a leadership role in assisting the Cambodian refugees and again the diocese contributed generously to this special fund. To date this fund has received \$38,262. The newest flood of refugees is presently to our South. Many Salvadoreans have been uprooted from their land and many more have fled their country in fear of their lives. CRS is helping with food and housing.

CRS not only deals with relief situations, it also tries to address problems of poverty and hunger at the grass roots level. For this purpose CRS has a network of field offices in countries throughout the world to enable the poor to help themselves.

Pope John Paul II in his address to the American people at Yankee Stadium praised us for our generosity in contributing to the works of mercy. But, he also reminded us that we have to continue our work and deal with the poor "... not from the crumbs of our table, but as guest ..."

I hope that next Sunday you will again be as generous as possible and enable CRS to continue its work so needed in our world today. May Our Lord reward you as plentifully as He rewards those who care "for the least of their neighbors."

Your brother in Christ,

Matthew H. Clark

Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark, DD
Bishop of Rochester.

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