

WALK WITH ME

A 21-DAY PRAYER JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD



 **CRS**
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

A BLESSING FOR OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

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HEAVENLY FATHER, PLEASE HEAR OUR PRAYER ON BEHALF OF OUR GLOBAL FAMILY.

BLESS ...families who struggle each day beneath an unbearable yoke of poverty.

...farmers who toil in the fields to ease the intense hunger of their children.

...those affected by disease or sickness.

...our brothers and sisters who endured unimaginable losses in Rwanda, Darfur and all places where mercy and reason are absent.

...people rendered homeless by the ravages of storms, the scythe of conflict and the brunt of war.

...those who look to us with hope during times of emergency.

...the beasts of burden that help us carry our daily load.

BLESS the compassionate donors who support the work of Catholic Relief Services, helping us accomplish our mission to save lives, restore human dignity and protect the sanctity of human life.

21 DAYS OF PRAYER

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Cover: A woman in Bangladesh, children in tow, makes her way to her job preparing roads as part of a CRS cash for work program.

PHOTO BY MAHMUD FOR CRS



A joyful crowd celebrates South Sudan's independence in 2011.

PHOTO BY SARA A. FAJARDO/CRS

LORD JESUS CHRIST, MAKE US INSTRUMENTS OF YOUR PEACE.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

Where there is injury, let us offer pardon.

Where there is discord, let us build peace.

Oh Divine Lord, you taught us that those who work for peace are called the children of God.

Help us to persist in establishing justice and truth as firm and lasting foundations of peace.

Lord, you offer us peace as a gift and peace as a responsibility that we must realize with your help.

Give us the grace to reach for peace, to have attitudes of peace, that our words may be of peace, and that our works be works of peace.

Then may we build the peace that we and our nations need.

*Monseñor Pedro Rubiano Sáenz
Cardinal of Colombia and Archbishop Emeritus of Bogotá*

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Much of Catholic Relief Services' work occurs in places that are on the edges of violence and war. Over time, we have learned that the way we carry out our emergency and development programming helps prevent or transform conflicts. If we ignore conflicts and their underlying causes, our work can prolong them by providing new

resources to warring parties—like food and supplies—or our programs can be destroyed in the chaos and violence. If we help address injustices that cause conflict and facilitate respectful relationships between conflicting parties, then our work together builds sustainable peace.



Filipino families hit by Typhoon Bopha now have access to clean water, thanks to water pumps installed by CRS.

PHOTO BY JENNIFER HARDY/CRS

DAY 2

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Every year, millions around the world are affected by calamity—from natural disaster to chronic conflict. These suffering people have a right to humanitarian assistance, both morally and according to international law. Catholic Relief Services' emergency programs are designed to bring relief and promote human dignity.

From the devastating earthquake in Haiti to drought and hunger across Africa, CRS works with partners on the ground to bring healing and hope to displaced and vulnerable people.

GOD, OUR REFUGE,
OUR EVER-PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE,
Your promises hold true. This we know. This we pray:

For the widow. The refugee. The orphan.
Those who are too weak, too tired, too broken to cry out to you.

When mountains shake, when leaders fail,
When all seems absolutely, irretrievably, impossibly lost,
You enter.

We thank you for your presence. We pray for your deliverance.
Your eyes are on the righteous. Your ears are attentive to their cry.
You are close to the brokenhearted.
You save those crushed in spirit. You rescue your servants.

And still, lest we forget all those who, suffering today,
will still be in this moment a week, a month, a year from now.

Remind us to pray
For the widow. The refugee. The orphan.
That your promises still hold true.
You are still our help in trouble, ever present, our refuge,
Our God.

Amen.

Larissa Peters
Catholic Relief Services



A young Syrian girl carries water to her family's makeshift tent at an informal refugee settlement in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

PHOTO BY SAM TARLING FOR CRS

DAY 3

PRAYER FOR REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PEOPLE

According to the United Nations, the number of displaced people in the world is about 45 million—the highest in 14 years. Of these, 15.4 million are internally displaced, within their own countries, and 28.8 million are refugees who have fled to other countries.

Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 to assist refugees in Europe and continues this work today. Refugees and people who are internally displaced have survived arduous journeys of suffering and loss, and their challenges often continue after they arrive at refugee camps. CRS and the local Church provide shelter, food and trauma counseling for survivors.

GOD OF ALL PEOPLE,

We bring before you all who work for the fullness of justice,
All who long for the widening of welcome
To which your Gospel calls us:

Open hearts, open arms, open doors
in welcome!

Displaced God.

Born in flight to parents anxious
and weary,

Born anew in those who flee oppression,
leaving home and loved ones behind,
And staking their lives on the hope of
abundant life,
we pray:

Open hearts, open arms, open doors
in welcome!

Journeying God,

Turned away over and over again
By our world's collective fear of the
stranger, we pray:

Open hearts, open arms, open doors
in welcome!

Uprooted God,

Suspended in the endless uncertainty
that is the daily life of the migrant,
we pray:

Open hearts, open arms, open doors
in welcome!

Waiting God,
Waiting today with all who suffer
separation
from home and the familiar,
Waiting for safe return,
Waiting for war's end,
Waiting for justice to be restored,
we pray:

Open hearts, open arms, open doors
in welcome!

God of all people,

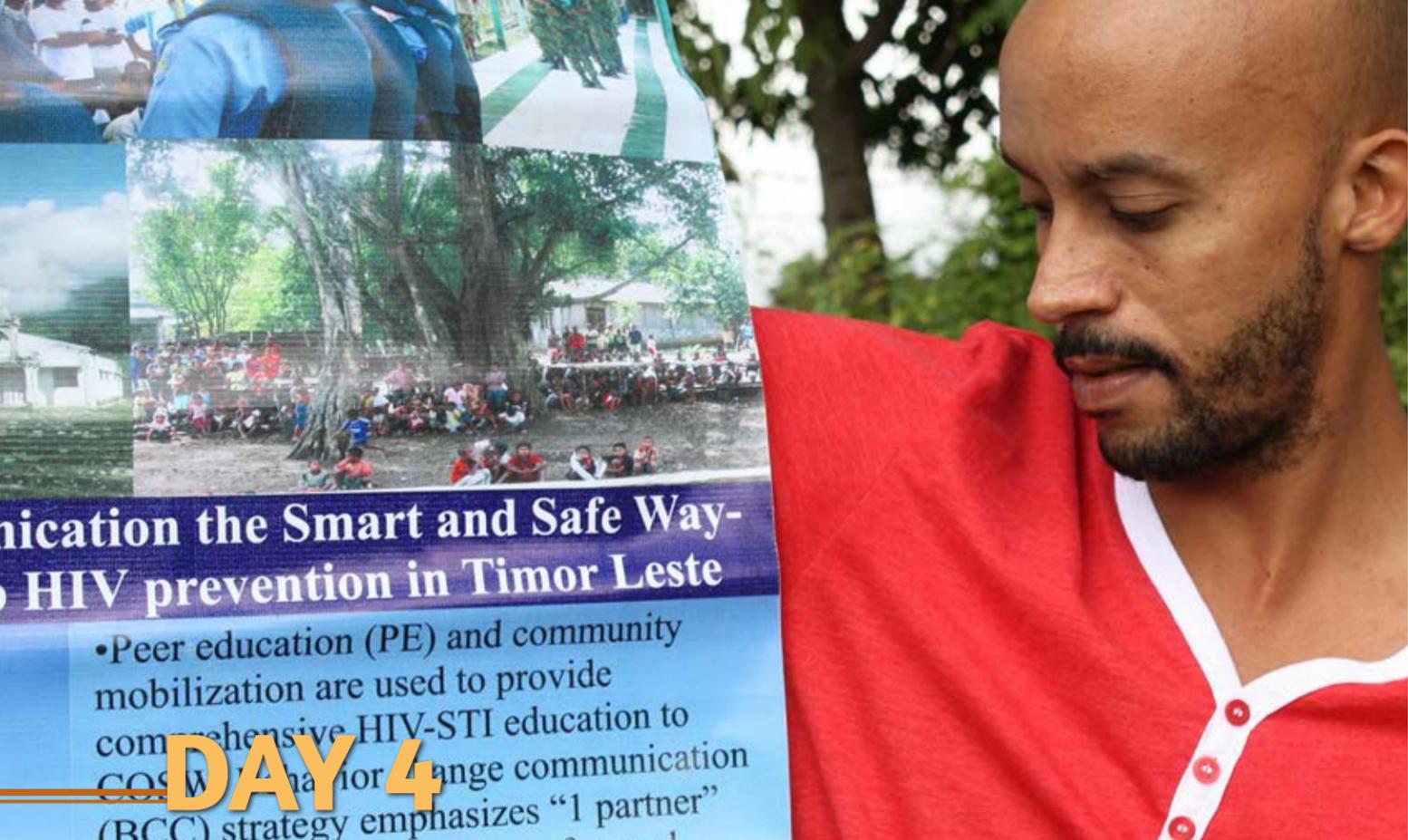
Stir us to holy anger over the wounds of
our world.

Move us to action for justice
Until the fullness of welcome is fulfilled in
our midst

And the problems that cause migration—
the poverty, the fear, and the suffering—
Are confronted by all people of good will
And transformed by the power of
compassion.

Amen!

*Adapted from Sister Chris Koellhoffer
Immaculate Heart of Mary*



A CRS staffer in East Timor displays a poster promoting HIV and AIDS education.

PHOTO BY LAURA SHEAHEN/CRS

HEAVENLY FATHER,
THANK YOU FOR TEACHING US
the lesson of the Good Samaritan.
Help us embrace our neighbor with care.
Fill our hearts with compassion so we may feed,
clothe, heal and give shelter to those in need.
May Christ's parable of mercy
inspire us in all our deeds for all our days.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES SUFFERING FROM AIDS

AIDS is one of the largest and most complex threats to human health the world has ever known. Great stigma compounds already tragic physical consequences. And in the developing world, poverty itself is both a cause and an effect of a pandemic that is devastating the physical, social and economic health of entire regions.

People around the world continue to suffer and die from HIV and AIDS, which often rob them of family, social networks and the ability to make a living. Young women bear the greatest risk of infection and the burden of caring for the ill. Through health care, counseling and community-based support, Catholic Relief Services helps people with HIV live happy, productive lives.



CRS microfinance programs help women in Oaxaca, Mexico, start their own businesses so they can provide for their families.

PHOTO BY PHILIP LAUBNER/CRS

DAY 5

PRAYER FOR WOMEN

More than 2.7 billion people live on \$2 or less a day. The majority are women. For as little as \$18, Catholic Relief Services can provide a woman with the financial training she needs to provide for her family.

A simple microfinance approach that pools member savings to make loans in their own community is improving economies in some of the poorest countries in the world. Now, CRS is celebrating 1 million members served

by Savings and Internal Lending Communities, or SILC.

This financial program builds savings and confidence for women living in poverty. With SILC, women can become financially stable beyond simply providing for their children's basic needs. They can send them to school, start their own businesses or save for future emergencies.

LORD, who came among us through a courageous woman's Yes, give us the courage to answer Yes to our sisters' pleas.

To the unborn girl who cries for the same birthright as her brother, give us the courage to say Yes.

To the school-age girl who longs for the opportunities only education can provide, give us the courage to say Yes.

To the adolescent girl who asks to be released from the injustice of forced marriage, give us the courage to say Yes.

To the infected woman, praying for herself and her unborn child, give us the courage to say Yes.

To the woman in childbirth, seeking a safe delivery, give us the courage to say Yes.

To the mother who needs food to feed her children, give us the courage to say Yes.

To the woman whose family is in harm's way, who seeks a way to protect and save them, give us the courage to say Yes.

To the refugee woman, searching for a safe haven for her family, give us the courage to say Yes.

To the woman who longs for meaningful work to support her household, give us the courage to say Yes.

To the woman who is not allowed to manage her own financial resources, give us the courage to say Yes.

To the woman who has the spirit of a leader, give us the courage to say Yes.

To the elderly woman who has given so much, give us the courage to say Yes.

Lord it is by the grace of women that we are here. Give us the grace to respond to this gift in kind—with the courage of Mary. The courage to say Yes.

*Edward O'Neill Hoyt
Catholic Relief Services*



CRS programs are raising awareness about gender-based violence in southern India's crowded refugee camps.

PHOTO BY LAURA SHEAHEN/CRS

HEAVENLY FATHER,

HELP US LIVE OUR FAITH by serving our brothers and sisters overseas who are tested and troubled by life's cruelest circumstances.

Grant us the will and means to feed, clothe, shelter, heal and comfort those who suffer immensely.

Through your many blessings may we deliver hope and love in abundance.

Amen.

*Edward O'Neill Hoyt
Catholic Relief Services*

DAY 6

PRAYER FOR MOTHERS AND INFANTS

In 2011, nearly 7 million children died before their 5th birthday. Many died from diseases that could have been prevented through simple knowledge about good hygiene and symptoms.

Catholic Relief Services believes that people should be empowered to make their own decisions and solve their own problems. In Catholic social teaching this is known as the principle of subsidiarity.

CRS community health programs bring together community members to work with their local health and development providers. Programs focus on child survival, maternal and child health, and HIV.

CRS staff and local partners promote social justice and the preservation of human rights and dignity by helping the most marginalized communities address their own basic health needs.



Young women in India are often targeted by human traffickers who promise them jobs but instead sell them into forced labor or prostitution.

PHOTO BY LAURA SHEAHEN/CRS

DAY 7

PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Although the exact number can never be known, the United Nations estimates that more than 20.9 million people are enslaved around the world—many hidden in plain sight. And even more shocking, nearly 30% of these modern-day slaves are children. This \$32 billion industry exists in every country around the world, including the United States.

Catholic Relief Services' programming works to decrease the vulnerability of poor and marginalized people to the risk of trafficking. By supporting economic opportunities and social protections, CRS helps prevent trafficking and reintegrates trafficked people into society.

OH GOD, WE DIDN'T SEE THEM.

But you did—

The hundreds and thousands of human beings
Trafficked each year to join the millions who are trapped
in modern-day slavery.

Under terrible conditions, they work in factories, plough fields,
harvest crops, work quarries,
fill brothels, clean homes and haul water.

Many are children with tiny fingers for weaving rugs
and small shoulders for bearing rifles.

Their labor is forced, their bodies beaten, their faces hidden
from those who don't really want to see them.

But you see them all, God of the poor.

You hear their cry and you answer by
opening our eyes, and breaking our hearts
and loosening our tongues to insist:

No más. No more.



Congolese refugees line up for supplies at a CRS food distribution site.

PHOTO BY CRS STAFF

DAY 8

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo has killed more than 3 million people since 1998. According to UNICEF, hundreds of thousands of women and girls have been raped and millions of people have fled their homes. A driving force behind the violence is armed groups fighting over lucrative mines and mineral trade routes. One of these “conflict minerals” is coltan, a critical component for the production of cell phones, laptops and other electronics.

Catholic Relief Services and our partners support peacebuilding initiatives in the DRC. This work encourages community dialogue and requires grassroots participation in decision making, especially about the use of communal assets like land. Programs address gender-based violence and reintegrate former child soldiers into society. They also focus on prevention by empowering marginalized groups through economic activities and training community leaders in conflict resolution.

LOVING GOD,

Turn my eyes to the other,
that I may see each as you see me—
with an innate dignity that transcends
appearances, circumstances, class,
and all earthly status,
which are temporary.
Help me to see the other as
Your beloved child,
eternally.

Turn my ears to the other,
that I may hear their cries as you
hear mine—
with a compassion and tenderness that
draws me closer in the midst of suffering.
Help me to hear the other as
Your beloved child,
eternally.

Turn my mind to the other,
that I may come to understand them as
you understand me—
struggling to find meaning and wholeness
in a world that’s fragmented,
and Your light in a world that’s dimmed.
Help me to understand the other as Your
beloved child,
eternally.

Turn my feet to the other,
that I may approach them across the
gaps that divide us—
gaps too often widened by illusions
of family, tribe, creed, race...
even otherness itself.
Help me to approach the other as Your
beloved child,
eternally.

Turn my hands to the other,
that I may serve them as You serve me—
with a touch that cleanses, that heals,
that feeds, and that reassures.
Help me to serve the other as Your
beloved child,
eternally.

Turn my heart to the other,
that I may love them as you love me—
steadfast, forgiving, ever-merciful, with
patience, seeing my joy in theirs.
Help me to love the other as Your
beloved child,
eternally.

Loving God,

Turn my life to the other,
that I may live in solidarity with them,
and thus with You,
forever.

*Edward O’Neill Hoyt
Catholic Relief Services*



More than 302,000 Ethiopians have participated in a CRS program that provides 6 months of rations so families can increase their savings.

PHOTO BY DAVID SNYDER FOR CRS

DAY 9

PRAYER FOR DROUGHT RELIEF IN EAST AFRICA

Every year, millions in East Africa struggle through drought to feed their families.

With the vast majority of farmers depending entirely on sporadic rains for their harvests, hunger itself has become a season across much of the countryside. As household food supplies dwindle, families are forced to sell precious commodities like livestock to survive,

creating an inescapable cycle of poverty and hunger. In the worst cases, families must leave their homes in search of food.

Catholic Relief Services provides emergency food and relief during severe drought. And by helping build wells and irrigation systems, CRS ensures farmers can feed their families and communities when the next drought comes.

LOVING GOD,

WE PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS in East Africa who continue to suffer from drought. May they receive your life-giving gift of water.

May our prayers and support provide hope and relief to those who are displaced from their homes, especially the millions of children who face hunger and illness.

Give comfort to your people in East Africa, and to all who are struggling with uncertainty for the future.

We ask this through your son Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen.



A Cambodian man shows the devastation caused by seasonal flooding in his village.

PHOTO BY SEAN SPRAGUE FOR CRS

HEAVENLY FATHER,

HELP US DELIVER THE DAILY BREAD to starving infants, hungry children and poor families around the world today.

Grant us the knowledge to show them how to feed themselves tomorrow.

And please accept our gratitude for the bounty we enjoy on our own tables through your many blessings.

Amen.

DAY 10

PRAYER FOR FARMERS IN CAMBODIA

Just as drought can destroy harvests, so can extreme flooding. In Indochina, coastal flooding devastates many farms by destroying crops and salting the soil.

Catholic Relief Services has served rural communities in Cambodia for more than a decade by alleviating hunger

and malnutrition caused by flooding.

We also teach farmers new techniques for raising livestock and flood-resistant crops like rice, vegetables and fruit trees. With these new methods, farmers will be better able to produce food for their families and community during regular flooding.



CRS is helping Syrian refugees like this young mother, who fled to Lebanon with her husband and two sons.

PHOTO BY SAM TARLING FOR CRS

DAY 11

PRAYER FOR REFUGEES FROM SYRIA

They are predominantly mothers, children and grandparents, and they bear the wounds of a war they never intended to fight.

The families coming into Jordan and Lebanon say they represent pieces of something that might never again be whole. Emotions in the clinics and at refugees' temporary homes run deep, along with an underlying theme of despair for the loss of life as they knew it.

As many as 100,000 people have been killed as a result of ongoing violence in Syria, with nearly 7 million uprooted inside the country or in need of humanitarian assistance.

Catholic Relief Services, Caritas Lebanon and other local partners are supporting urgent medical care and emergency relief for tens of thousands of Syrian refugees in the areas most affected by the conflict across the region.

O JESUS, I PRAY FOR those who wander far from their homeland and live the lives of migrants.

They are our brothers and sisters, refugees who flee from violence, families on the road because of poverty. None of them know where to arrive. All of them need your help!

You know them
For you yourself experienced the hard days of exile together with Mary and Joseph.

Our migrant sisters and brothers need your light to uncover the empty promises that frequently attract them. They need your Church to remind them of their obligations, often forgotten in their daily sufferings. They need your help to ennoble and to confirm them as Christians in their work.

Heart of Jesus, bless the migrants, and fill their lives with the love of God from whom all good things come.

Defend them from danger.
Make strong their faith
to seek happiness not only in this world, but also for eternal life.
As pilgrims, as the Church itself,
may they reach the heavenly city and be with you forever.

Amen.

*Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo (Scalabrinians)
Mexico*



Young girls in Sierra Leone can look forward to brighter futures, thanks to a CRS program that increases their access to education.

PHOTO BY HELEN BLAKESLY/CRS

DAY 12

PRAYER FOR GIRLS IN SIERRA LEONE

Nearly two-thirds of the world's illiterate adults are women. In many countries around the world, education for women is a low priority, and women consistently face discrimination.

Catholic Relief Services and our local partners are working to combat these statistics. In one education project, students in 200 schools are benefiting from nutritious meals, teacher training and improved buildings.

This project intentionally selects only girls to bring home food each month, giving families extra incentive to send their daughters to school. These "take-home" rations also serve to elevate girls' status as providers for their families.

LOVING GOD,

WE THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF EDUCATION.

We ask you to bless children around the world you want to go to school.

Help them and their communities find opportunities to receive an education so that they have a better future.

And help us be part of their journey out of poverty as members of the global community.

Amen.



Malawi's Lusubilo Orphan Care project helps children who have lost their parents to HIV.

PHOTO BY KAREN KASMAUSKI FOR CRS

DAY 13

PRAYER FOR ORPHANS IN MALAWI

In Malawi, 10% of the population has HIV, and many children have lost parents to the epidemic. But Sister Beatrice, founder of Lusubilo Orphan Care project, is making sure they are taken care of.

“Lusubilo” means hope in the local language, and it’s a fitting description for Sister Beatrice’s lifesaving work. Since 2005, in partnership with Catholic Relief Services, the project has brought hope to children and extended families in 66 communities in the district of Karonga.

In addition to childcare centers and community gardens, the project also runs an orphanage that shelters 70 children, provides infant formula for babies whose mothers have either died or cannot produce milk, provides home-based care to 1,200 people with HIV, teaches agricultural skills and provides food baskets to orphan-headed households.

CREATOR GOD,

THERE ARE SO MANY WHO WANDER, without family, without home, without purpose or dreams or name.

But you, who knit each of us together in the womb, are Father to the fatherless.

In you, the orphan, the lonely child, finds comfort, peace, belonging.

Father in Heaven, you draw the little children to your side. You call each one by name.

You alone can give them all they need.

We pray that we will not forget the forgotten

Or ignore the lonely

Or shut our ears to the quiet cries.

Bring hope through us today.

Amen.

Larissa Peters

Catholic Relief Services



In the Dominican Republic, CRS is teaching teens at risk to lead their communities in disaster preparedness.

PHOTO BY ROBYN FIESER/CRS

DAY 14

PRAYER FOR YOUTH IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

When emergencies happen, Catholic Relief Services is there to respond. CRS also helps communities around the world prevent future disasters through peacebuilding programs that focus on preventing violence and programs that prepare communities for natural disasters.

In the Dominican Republic, CRS and our partners have begun training young people on the basics of disaster preparedness: how to plan for and respond to earthquakes and hurricanes,

administer first aid, map out evacuation routes, set up emergency shelters and work as a team.

The program doesn't just build the communities' ability to withstand emergencies. It is helping youth at risk become skilled, community-minded leaders. As young people from neighboring areas start to work together, the barriers created by a culture of distrust are beginning to crumble.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU
WITH DISCOMFORT WITH EASY ANSWERS,
half-truths, and superficial relationships...
so that you will live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression
and exploitation of people...
so that you will work for justice, equity and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from
pain, rejection, starvation and war...
so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them
and change their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with the foolishness to think that you
can make a difference in the world...
so that you will do the things which others tell you
cannot be done.

Amen.

Elaine Menardi
Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyoming



Tool and seed fairs in West Darfur help families affected by decades of war return to farming.

PHOTO BY DEBBIE DEVOE/CRS

DEAR LORD,

GRANT US THE FAITH TO HEED YOUR CALL
and follow in the footsteps of your first disciples.

May we be your servants to your children overseas.

Let us give thanks and praise for the blessings you bestow
upon us in abundance.

Now hear our pledge to share them with the world.

Amen.

DAY 15

PRAYER FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE IN SUDAN

In Sudan, Catholic Relief Services assists more than 40,000 people in and around Khartoum and an additional 500,000 in Darfur. In Khartoum, most of our work takes place in areas populated by people displaced by conflict. Programs help communities build schools and form small microfinance groups—called Savings and Internal Lending Communities—that help families increase their savings and earn a living. CRS also teaches communities how to prepare and cope with annual flooding during the rainy season.

Since 2004, CRS has provided humanitarian aid in West and Central Darfur. These lifesaving programs have served people living in camps through food distributions, shelter construction, treatment of malnourished children, and provision of clean water and sanitation facilities. More recently, CRS has begun helping displaced people who are returning to their homes by rebuilding schools, providing agricultural training, and building networks of community health and nutrition promoters.



A CRS program helps Vietnamese children with disabilities receive teacher visits at home.

PHOTO BY LAURA SHEAHEN/CRS

DAY 16

PRAYER FOR CHILDREN IN VIETNAM

In Vietnam, hundreds of thousands of children have physical disabilities, often as a result of land mines and other legacies of the Vietnam War.

Children with disabilities in Vietnam are often ostracized, even by their own families. Catholic Relief Services makes sure children have what they need to reach their full potential, including physical therapy, wheelchairs, hearing aids and teachers who understand.

CRS' work doesn't stop with young children. Our programs help teens and young adults learn information technology at a special college for people with disabilities. The college also helps with interview skills and job placement so that people with disabilities can live self-sufficient, productive lives.

LORD OF THE 23RD PSALM,

I have known death,
And you have refreshed my soul.

I have known fear,
And you have comforted me.

I have known hunger,
And you have set a feast before me.

In the darkest valley
No calamity of humankind or
nature has separated us.

Teach me to walk as you walk
Beside those in mourning
So that they will know joy,

Beside those in fear
That they will know comfort,

Beside those in hunger
That they will feast until
their cup overflows.

As your goodness and love follow me,
May mine follow my neighbor
That the threat of the worst terrors
May turn to the knowledge of the
comforts of the house of the Lord,
Where you have invited us to
dwell forever.

And so let me strive to help build
on earth
What you have promised us
in heaven.

In the face of all calamity, present
and yet to come,
Let me lead my neighbor
beside quiet waters,
The quiet waters
of the Good Shepherd.

Amen.

*Edward O'Neill Hoyt
Catholic Relief Services*



Keyhole gardens help women in Afghanistan feed their families through the long winter months.

PHOTO BY JENNIFER HARDY/CRS

DAY 17

PRAYER FOR WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN

Catholic Relief Services and our partners respond to the needs of farmers and their families around the world. Our innovative agro-enterprise projects address the demands of local markets and teach farmers how to improve their growing techniques and better process and market their crops.

In Afghanistan, CRS is working with communities to help women build and plant specially designed raised-bed gardens, called “keyhole gardens,” that produce vegetables through the winter, improving nutrition and providing produce to trade or sell.

Widows and other vulnerable women now have a chance to supplement their incomes and eat well year-round.

LORD JESUS,
IN IMAGES OF FARMING AND RURAL LIFE
you announced your Gospel to the poor.

We pray for rural men and women,
especially for those who work hard in the fields.

Give us the strength of your Spirit to be witnesses
and collaborators of the creative providence.

May we always sow in ourselves and in our families
the holiness and hope of Christian life,
with the same zeal with which we cultivate our land.

Bless the daily efforts of farmers and farm workers.
Let all recognize the dignity of their labor.

Raise from among us men and women
at the service of the Gospel,
sisters and brothers to announce unceasingly
your love for this world that is your own field and farm.
We give you glory forever and ever.
Amen.

*Father Ermolao Portella
Colombia*



Once a victim of slave labor, this Brazilian man will receive pay for his work thanks to a CRS-supported program.

PHOTO BY ROBYN FIESER/CRS

DAY 18

PRAYER FOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS IN BRAZIL

Catholic Relief Services works to eradicate modern-day slavery throughout the world. In Brazil, ending slavery is also a priority of the local Church and its Pastoral Land Commission (CPT, in Portuguese). The commission has developed various campaigns to inform people in vulnerable communities about their rights and negotiate fair wages.

Since 2010, CRS has partnered with "Slavery, no way!" the first Brazilian

national project to prevent slavery. Together we have carried out 41 projects in six Brazilian states where slave labor exists, training teachers and local leaders how to fight slavery.

The program also teaches children about their rights and how to protect themselves from trafficking. Since our partnership began, "Slavery, no way!" has reached more than 12,000 teachers, students, workers and community members.

I DID NOT KNOW YOU BUT I WAS YOURS.

And they do not know me
And I do not know them
But they are mine
And I am theirs.

Let no chasm, no river, no drought or storm,
No war, no exodus, no border, natural or constructed,
No device of man nor devil
Come between us
Or halt the love that burns within me,
The grace that flows from you.
Let me think on no man lest I think joyful thoughts
of brotherhood,

Let me think on no woman lest I think tender thoughts
of sisterhood,
Friend and stranger,
Ally and enemy,
Brothers,
Sisters.
They are mine
And I am theirs,
Because we are yours.

*Edward O'Neill Hoyt
Catholic Relief Services*



CRS helps Kenyan women and children with AIDS receive health care and money for school fees.

PHOTO BY DAVID SNYDER FOR CRS

DAY 19

PRAYER FOR THE LONELY AND FORGOTTEN

When governments and local communities are unable or unwilling to provide for the basic needs of their most vulnerable people, there is a moral imperative for the broader human community to respond. This is the basis for Catholic Relief Services' "safety net" programming.

A safety net is assistance for extremely vulnerable people who are unable to meet their most basic needs for survival and human dignity. People

may be unable to meet these needs due to an external shock—such as natural disasters or war—or due to socioeconomic circumstances, such as age, illness, disability or discrimination.

CRS and our partners also work with local institutions to provide complementary assistance, including medical care and counseling, education, or skills training so people can sustain themselves in the future.

GOD OF ALL PEOPLE,

We pray for our brothers and sisters who are alone, who are forgotten today...

the homeless man begging on the corner

the abused woman and child

the prisoner struggling to offer forgiveness

the woman trafficked across the border and now forced to sell her body

the lonely one suffering from addiction

the migrant longing for home and family

the couple consumed by work and material wealth, having lost the love and affection they once shared

the teenager too afraid to go to school because of the bullying he has endured.

These and others are your lonely people.

Forgive us the times we have kept silent, contributing to or perpetuating their isolation and alienation.

Give us the courage to set free all your children, breaking the traps of fear and oppression that isolate us from love.

Guide us to a new creation where all men, women and children are welcomed as gift and blessing,

where we can dance and sing without restraint in the glory of your love as magnified in the love of you and each other.

Amen.



CRS staff distribute food to flood victims in northern India.

PHOTO BY CRS STAFF

LORD, I WAS A PILE OF ASH

And you made me a light for the world
I was a stone
And you made me salt for the earth
I was as lifeless as clay
And you made me part of the Body of Christ
I was sinful
And you made me holy
I was nothing
And you made me part of everything

Lord, in you I am transformed
And transformed still again
When the discouraged cry for hope, make me hope
When the hungry cry for bread, make me bread
When the thirsty cry for water, make me water
When the suffering cry for help, make me help
When the sick cry for healing, make me healing
When the bound cry for freedom, make me freedom
When the outcasts cry for love, make me love
Lord who is hope,
who is bread and water,
who is help and healing,
who is freedom,
and who is love,
Transform me anew,
and so keep me close to you,
as you transform the world.

Amen.

*Edward O'Neill Hoyt
Catholic Relief Service*

DAY 20

PRAYER FOR STAFF AND PARTNERS AROUND THE WORLD

We are all part of one human family—whatever our national, racial, religious, economic or ideological differences—and in an increasingly interconnected world, loving our neighbor has global dimensions.

Catholic Relief Services could not reach around the world so effectively and efficiently without our local staff and partners. We are grateful for those overseas, dedicated servants with a passion to serve their Church and respond to the needs around them. They are ever-giving of themselves, sacrificing time and money in order to live out a calling that is having a life-changing impact in 93 countries.

CRS staff also belong to coalitions that extend the reach of services to poor people who often live in remote areas where we do not operate. These coalitions give CRS a platform to present effective methods and procedures that demonstrate the efficacy of Catholic approaches to health and family planning. These are our opportunities to make space in the public sphere for the Catholic viewpoint and to witness to our faith.

In solidarity, we know that together, as one human family, we can transform the world.



Legion of Mary members celebrate their first Mass as independent South Sudanese.

PHOTO BY SARA A. FAJARDO/CRS

DAY 21

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

Thank you for walking with us these 21 days.

We invite you to continue to walk with the people you have read about and prayed for. Your prayers and compassion for vulnerable people around the world is what inspires us to serve and, with your help, transform entire communities.

Today, let's pray for the strength of our Church and our continued ability to help so many of our brothers and sisters overseas.

RECEIVE THIS HOLY FIRE.

Make your lives like this fire.

A holy life that is seen.

A life of God that is seen.

A life that has no end.

A life that darkness does not overcome.

May this light of God in you grow.

Light a fire that is worthy of your heads.

Light a fire that is worthy of your children.

Light a fire that is worthy of your fathers.

Light a fire that is worthy of your mothers.

Light a fire that is worthy of God.

Now go in peace.

May the Almighty protect you today and all days.

Amen.

A Prayer From Tanzania



CRS helped build this storage warehouse with a local farmer's cooperative in Ethiopia.

PHOTO BY DAVID SNYDER FOR CRS

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. We ease suffering and provide assistance to people in need in 93 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality.

CRS is efficient and effective. In 2013, 92 percent of our expenditures went to CRS programming that benefits poor people overseas.

To learn more, visit crs.org.

