



Global Solidarity News

January 2017

Giving Hope to a World in Need
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY PRAYER

As Catholics, we recognize that prayer is of the utmost importance, an invaluable contribution to helping the poor overseas. It guides our actions, it binds us in solidarity to one another and connects us more deeply with the grace that flows from God.

We invite you to join us in praying the following prayers this month, so our hearts may be one and steadfast as we turn again to the work of the Lord: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick and the captive. It is very important at this critical time in areas of tragedy and violence that U.S. Catholics stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world.

The Coffeelands Project.

Coffee is a preeminent smallholder cash crop. More than 2 of every 3 pounds of coffee are produced by smallholder farmers. The definition of smallholder includes growers in some countries who tend fewer than 100 plants. Even for smallholder coffee growers, whose farms are located in coveted coffee regions, poverty is the norm. CRS has engaged in coffee programming for 13 years, and is a leader in delivering positive impacts for smallholder coffee farmers. Critical in this CRS programming is upholding the dignity of coffee farmers, insuring they receive a fair and just wage for their crops. CRS has implemented 20 projects benefiting 50,000 farmers (250,000 people, including families). A thriving coffee sector is good development – it fosters social stability and inclusion, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability. **Learn more at www.crs.org.**

'PRAYER FOR FARMERS'

GOD OF ALL HARVESTS,

In you, there is no dryness.
In you, no weed chokes the root.
No blight withers the leaf.
No frost bites at the blossom.

God of all harvests, bless all planters everywhere:
All who sow and all who gather,

All who nourish and all who weed,
All who thresh and bundle and bring to market.
And bless all harvests.

Sprinkle your living water on our fields,
On our relationships,
On our communities,
On our hearts.
And kiss us with the light and warmth of your undying sun.

May all our harvests reflect the Harvest that is yet to come.

Amen.

Adapted from: *God of All Harvests, Catholic Relief Services*