



Global Solidarity News

February 2018

Putting Our Faith into Action Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

CRS Celebrates 75 years of Caring and Changing Lives. It began in 1943 as War Relief Services, established by the U.S. Catholic Bishops to help war-torn Europe and its refugees recover. As Europe regained balance, the agency looked to other parts of the world, seeking those who could benefit from the assistance of Catholics in the U.S. The next two decades saw CRS expand its operations, opening offices in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. In these and subsequent years, CRS built on its tradition of providing relief in emergency situations. We sought ways to help people in the developing world break the cycle of poverty through community-based, sustainable development initiatives related to agriculture, health and education. Our mission continues to focus on the poor overseas, using the gospel of Jesus Christ as our mandate. Now, as then, CRS relies on our Church community, donors, partners and staff to serve people in need around the world. **Learn more at crs.org.**

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. Share them with your parish and/or school community, 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.

PRAYER – CRS CELEBRATES 75 YEARS OF CARING AND CHANGING LIVES

‘HELP US SHINE A LIGHT’

LORD OF LIBERTY,

The story of your relationship with man
Is the greatest liberation story ever told.
To a people seeking freedom from tyrants and empires
From bondage and captivity
You have shown a way to freedom
Even from sin and death.

Indeed, in the jailer’s cage
Paul and Silas sang hymns unto you
For they had the Spirit of the Lord
The key that opens every cage.

This is the key you have given us.
This is the key that has freed us.
Show us the cages that still hold our brothers and sisters:
Oppression, exploitation
Slavery, hatred
Illness, addiction
War and poverty and hunger.

In these, the darkest places, lost in the shadows
Across the world or right before us
Help us shine a light.
For we have the Spirit of the Lord
And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there will be freedom.

Amen.

(From: Adapted from *The Key that Opens Every Cage, Catholic Relief Services*)