



Global Solidarity News

May 2018

Putting Our Faith into Action Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

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Venezuela's Crisis. Political and economic instability have left Venezuelans without access to food, medical care or basic government services. More than 2 million people have fled the country, and tens of thousands have been killed since 2016. The annual inflation rate was estimated to be over 2,000% in 2017, and is expected to continue rising in 2018. Food prices have increased by 650%. More than 80 percent of Venezuelans are living in poverty. Children are missing school, and adults are missing work. In response to food shortages, riots have escalated. Venezuela's public health services have collapsed. CRS and Caritas Venezuela are focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable—children, pregnant women, people with disabilities and the elderly—aiming to reach 2,200 families, or 11,000 people over 18 months with Primary Health Care (e.g., basic health care, hygiene kits, mosquito nets and water purification supplies) and Community Meals. **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 – VENEZUELA’S CRISIS:

‘PRAYER DURING DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES’

MERCIFUL FATHER,

We know that your love is infinite,
and that you care about all areas of our life.
In this time of great economic and political insecurity in Venezuela,
help us to trust that all of our security is in you.

Open new opportunities for the Venezuelan people,
and furnish the resources they need to live with dignity.
Encourage those who have enough to share essential resources
with those who lack the necessities of life,
and to do so with humble, grateful and loving hearts.

Keep us mindful that you always have and
always will provide for our needs.
Apart from you we can do nothing.

We ask this through Your Son Jesus Christ,
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
One God forever and ever.

Amen.

(Adapted from: Prayer during Difficult Economic Times, Catholic Relief Services)