



NOVEMBER 2016 FEATURED CORE PROGRAM: ADVOCACY

WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

Advocacy is taking action to support a cause or proposal. It encompasses educating and mobilizing citizens, and it involves them in developing and promoting policies they care about.

We can ease human suffering and help millions of people through advocacy that changes unjust policies or systems.

Speaking out is central to our identity as a people of faith. By our Baptism, Catholics are committed to following Jesus Christ and being “salt for the earth, light for the nations.” As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us,

“It is necessary that all participate, according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person ... As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life.” (nos. 1913–1915)

CRS complements its humanitarian and development work and experience with policy analysis and advocacy to address the root causes of poverty, conflict and marginalization. We examine the issues that are dramatically impacting the safety and well-being of poor and vulnerable people worldwide. *Our work is based on the principles of Catholic social teaching, primary among them the protection of the dignity of the human person.*

We invite you to join us as we confront global poverty through the power of our collective voice. Together, we can address the root causes of poverty around the world—hunger, disease, violent conflict, and injustice—which disproportionately impact our impoverished brothers and sisters around the globe.



**CRS' PRIORITY
ADVOCACY ISSUES:**

- 1. poverty-focused international assistance**
- 2. human trafficking**
- 3. climate change**
- 4. pursuing peace**

HIGHLIGHTS

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ADVOCACY EDUCATION RESOURCES ONLINE NOW!!!

CRS Global High School is excited to offer a way to help empower your students to get involved in advocating for the rights of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters all around the world. Our **Advocacy Education** resources provide concrete ways for your students to pray, learn, and act to create change in our world.

On our website, you will find a variety of resources to engage students in advocacy. Prayer services, case studies, and activities such as letter writing and hill visits to congressmen and women offer your students the opportunity to understand how much of a difference they can truly make in the world around them.

These resources can be used as a complement to the Catholics Confront Global Poverty Advocacy Toolkit, which can be found at www.confrontglobalpoverty.org/act/toolkit.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
GHS.CRS.ORG/ADVOCACY-EDUCATION
for your FREE resources!

“Continue to overcome apathy, offering a Christian response to the social and political anxieties, which are arising in various parts of the world. I ask you to be builders of the world, to work for a better world. Dear young people, please, don’t be observers of life, but get involved. Jesus did not remain an observer, but he immersed himself. Don’t be observers, but immerse yourself in the reality of life, as Jesus did.” —Pope Francis, July 27, 2013

SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOLS!



CRS Global High Schools across the country are taking a stand for global solidarity to aid our brothers and sisters around the world during their time of greatest need. Read the stories we have received from some of our schools and celebrate the good work that students are doing to change the world!

Bishop Dwenger High School, Indiana (Platinum):

To focus students’ attentions on the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, the school posted CRS photos on hallway message screens with a call to prayer. Students were reminded as they passed by the screens throughout the day to offer up prayers for those people affected by the hurricane.

Archbishop Ryan High School, Pennsylvania (Silver):

To raise donations for CRS’ efforts to assist those people effected by Hurricane Matthew, the school held a dress-down day and presented CRS on TV morning announcements.

Bishop Shanahan High School, Pennsylvania (Platinum):

The school did a collection for the efforts of CRS in Haiti as part of their school-wide rosary prayer and shared a video of images from Haiti to bring the students’ attentions to the stories of the people there.

**SHARE YOUR
STORIES WITH US:
GLOBALHIGHSCHOOL@CRS.ORG**



PUT ADVOCACY INTO ACTION: TURN ON THE LIGHT

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. With 21 million victims worldwide, there are more slaves today than at any time in history.¹ Our Catholic faith calls on us to defend life and human dignity, to fight conditions that lead to the enslavement of human beings.

¹"ILO Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Slavery," last modified September 15, 2015, www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm

**HELP US SHINE A
LIGHT ON THE
INVISIBLE 21
MILLION.**

Answering the Gospel's call to care for those who are suffering, Catholic Relief Services is working to eradicate human trafficking with 145 projects worldwide. Led by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, we're pressing governments to strengthen and enforce anti-trafficking laws. We're raising awareness. And we're helping men, women and children reclaim their lives. We need your help.

But trafficking victims also need your help.

Victims of human trafficking produce goods that are sold all over the world. So being a conscientious consumer is one of the best ways to combat human trafficking. Know the sources of the goods and services you purchase. Whenever possible, buy fairly or ethically traded products. And urge your elected leaders to support policies that assist victims and fight human trafficking.

“Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ. It is a crime against humanity.”

—Pope Francis



**CLICK
HERE
FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND
TO TAKE ACTION
AGAINST HUMAN
TRAFFICKING!**



CRS RICE BOWL: ORDER YOUR MATERIALS AND REVIEW LESSON PLANS, PRAYERS AND ACTIVITIES

Place your order for FREE CRS Rice Bowl materials at least 3 weeks before Lent. You can order CRS Rice Bowls, posters and more online at crsricebowl.org/order or by calling 800-222-0025.

Find prayers, activities and a lesson plan template designed specifically for high schools to integrate CRS Rice Bowl and Catholic social teaching into your classes at crsricebowl.org/youth.



CRS EDUCATION IS PART OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2017!

At their core, Catholic schools are called to serve the poor and vulnerable, uphold the dignity of human life and form disciples who bring about justice. In light of this call, the National Catholic Educational Association and Catholic Relief Services have come together in partnership to create a FREE "Syrian Refugee Toolkit" for download and use during Catholic Schools Week 2017.

Register online and you will automatically be sent the link to the free online toolkit.

Register [HERE](#)

CRS GLOBAL HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

15th: Order CRS Rice Bowl supplies!
24th: Thanksgiving
27th: Advent Begins
30th: Feast of Christ the King, end of Year of Mercy

DECEMBER

12th: Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe
25th: Christmas

January

1st: World Day of Peace
17th: World Day for Migrants and Refugees
30th: Catholic Schools Week: Community Day

February

8th: Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking
15th: February Newsletter: CRS Rice Bowl and Lent
15th: Global Advocate Form Posted!

MARCH

1st: Ash Wednesday
17th: St. Patrick's Day

22nd: World Water Day
24th: Feast of Blessed Oscar Romero

APRIL

3rd: Divine Mercy Sunday
16th: Easter
22nd: Earth Day
24th: End-of-Year Survey Form Posted!

MAY

7th: Last day to return Global Advocate nominations
15th: May Newsletter: End-of-Year Wrap-Up

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, OR SUGGESTIONS?

**CONTACT THE
CRS GLOBAL HIGH SCHOOL TEAM:
GLOBALHIGHSCHOOL@CRS.ORG
228 W. LEXINGTON STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21201**