



ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

Office of the Archbishop

archbishop@catholicaoc.org
513.263.6612

March 14, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Parishes across the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will take up the annual collection for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) at the Masses of April 13-14. This collection supports several Catholic agencies that carry out critical international relief and solidarity efforts. These agencies provide relief and resettlement for victims of persecution, war, and natural disaster; development projects to improve living conditions for the poor; legal and other support services for poor immigrants; peace and reconciliation work for people suffering from violence; and advocacy on behalf of the powerless.

Recently, CRS has been working to provide aid to those impacted by the conflict between Israel and Hamas, including emergency supplies, bedding and market-based assistance to meet immediate food and other needs for thousands of families. CRS continues to seek other avenues to expand their efforts and provide humanitarian relief to the suffering.

As Catholics, we are invited to deepen our relationship with God and unite our hearts more with our brothers and sisters, wherever they may live. Today, in a world plagued with major global conflicts – the war in Ukraine, the war in the Middle East, and the many others that do not always make the headlines – humanity cries out for healing. We need a worldview that respects the dignity and sanctity of human life, everywhere and at all stages.

Exercising the ministry of charity, especially to the most vulnerable, is a central responsibility of the Church. By doing so, we fulfill the second great commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mt. 22:39). Many families throughout the world are faced daily with violence, oppression, subhuman living conditions, fear, and uncertain futures. May we heed their cries for help and respond in love as Jesus Himself instructs us.

Please prayerfully consider how you can support the CRS collection this year, and thank you for all the support you have given in the past. May God bless you abundantly.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr
Archbishop of Cincinnati

To learn more about the CRS collection and the people who benefit, please visit:
<https://www.usccb.org/national-collection/catholic-relief-services-collection>.

ljh

RADIATE CHRIST