

Action Sheet

AUGUST 2022

God, you filled the fisherman's nets to bursting. Fill us to bursting. Fill us with compassion for our sisters and brothers. Fill us with the grace that pours forth from your loving heart. Continue praying with the prayer, [Fill Us to Bursting](#).

SKILL AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING ACTION

In order to invite more people to join the national chapter community, our missionary action this month will be to write, and then speak to, 2-3 friends, peers or family members inviting them to join you at the September 10 National Call. To receive the Zoom link, have them RSVP with this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/09eCzYiXMY>. We will host a post-call interactive Q&A for those interested in learning more about joining a chapter, along with an opportunity to take an advocacy action.

BACKGROUND

CRS Chapters and Clubs

Catholic Relief Services is building a national network of CRS Chapters to mobilize Catholics and others of goodwill to end global poverty. These chapters*—comprised of parishioners, diocesan groups and other community members—are taking critical and meaningful actions to address global poverty and advocate on behalf of our global family. Engaging in CRS Chapters empowers volunteers to live out their call as missionary disciples and become champions for the families and communities that CRS serves.

**Chapters are formed through audience-specific groups: CRS Chapters for adults, CRS High School Clubs, and CRS University Chapters.*

What do CRS Chapters & Clubs do?

As communities of people committed to ending global poverty and transforming our world, chapters take monthly actions that advance CRS' mission to assist those who are poor and vulnerable around the world.

- **ADVOCACY:** Chapters address the systemic causes of global poverty through advocacy; developing strong relationships with their members of Congress through letters, phone calls, and visits; as well as writing letters to the editor and op-eds in local media outlets. These advocacy efforts engage and educate lawmakers, helping to influence policy changes for critical issues like migration and hunger.
- **COMMUNITY GIVING:** Chapters respond to the immediate needs of our human family around the world through giving activities such as CRS Rice Bowl, emergency relief funds and other creative giving opportunities that match a community's interests and skills. These activities allow CRS to be agile and respond to urgent needs around the world as well as help CRS leverage additional funding to reach even more people.

What are the benefits of joining a CRS Chapter or Club?

CRS Chapter members are catalysts of global impact, invited to live out their calling as missionary disciples and people of goodwill by engaging in a movement to end global poverty. Members learn about important humanitarian issues; develop essential skills in leadership, advocacy and community engagement; and receive specialized training and support from CRS staff. Chapters are connected to regional, state and national networks of CRS champions, magnifying their impact to advance policy changes for a more just and peaceful world.

TAKE ACTION: Write to Your Friends, Peers or Family Members

1. Reflect on your time with your CRS Chapter or Club.

- Why did you join this community?
- What keeps you motivated?
- Did you complete any of the following actions and were any of them new to you?:
 - (a) send a personal letter to a member of Congress,
 - (b) call your Congressperson's staff about your letter,
 - (c) write a letter to the editor,
 - (d) have a letter to the editor published, and/or
 - (e) plan for a meeting with a member of Congress or their aide?
 - (f) lead a community giving fundraiser to support CRS?
 - (g) mobilize your community to participate in CRS Rice Bowl?
- Do you have any reflections about having a more powerful role in your democracy and your ability to make a difference for our global family?

2. Write 2-3 friends, peers or family members inviting them to attend the Saturday, September 10 CRS National Chapter & Club Conference Call. Consider writing people who might join your local CRS Chapter or Club and others in your network who might live in a different geographic region than your local CRS Chapter or Club.

Note: If you are inviting someone from the high school setting, please note these calls are only for those 18+ and are open to school faculty and staff or parents.

In your letter include the following pieces:

- (a) Tell them why you saw them as someone who would be interested in supporting the work of CRS Chapters.
- (b) Share about why you joined a chapter, what continues to motivate you and any reflections about yourself and your abilities to be a more effective advocate since joining the chapter.
- (c) To receive the Zoom link, invite them to RSVP to the September 10 National Call with this form:
<https://forms.office.com/r/09eCzYiXMY>
Note: this link is only for people who are not in a chapter or club yet.
- (d) Let them know that you will call in a few days to see if they can make it.

3. Mark your calendar to call your friends, peers or family members a few days after you write them to encourage them to come. If they can make it, remind them a few days before the meeting takes place.

