**Global Solidarity Ambassador Program**

***POSITION OVERVIEW***

Pope Francis has exhorted us, “The immense importance of a culture marked by faith cannot be overlooked… [It] contains values of faith and solidarity capable of encouraging the development of a more just and believing society…The whole Church…has to go forth to everyone without exception…above all the poor and the sick, those *who* are usually despised and overlooked, ‘those who cannot repay you’ (Luke 14:14)…We have to state, without mincing words, that ‘there is an inseparable bond between our faith and the poor.’ May we never abandon them.” (*The Joy of the Gospel*, nos. 68, 48)

The role of the Global Solidarity Ambassador (GSA) is to assist the parish (and Catholic school, where applicable) in understanding their greater role as a Catholic community to live in spiritual solidarity with our brothers and sisters within our parish, our community and with those around the world.

The GSA should be someone who personally believes in the importance of developing “a more just and believing society” and has at least a basic understanding of the Catholic Church’s teaching on solidarity with the poor and marginalized in our world.

The parish-level Global Solidarity Ambassador Program can focus on two areas of global solidarity ministry, or can encompass several or all of the ministry areas. It is strongly recommended that the GSA begin modestly with two areas (including CRS Rice Bowl) and later expand (as desired) the parish program to other global solidarity ministries. The implementation of global solidarity in the parish is an opportunity to broadly educate parishioners and encourage them to embrace solidarity with the poor and marginalized around the world.

Key Responsibilities of this position:

* Participate in the CRS Rice Bowl Lenten Faith-in-Action Program and pick at least one other GSA program ministry that will be promoted in your parish/school.
* Place monthly global solidarity announcements and/or prayer intentions in the parish bulletin or school newsletter.
* Organize prayer vigils in response to key global issues that are affecting the dignity of the human person (e.g., when there is a natural or man-made disaster; or a crisis such as war, famine or a grave violation to the dignity of the human person). Please see section titled “Global Emergency Response.”
* Participate in an annual Global Solidarity Ambassador Day of Reflection for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis at which there will be the opportunity to share best practices and ideas among the GSAs, learn about new or updated resources that are available to aid the GSA in the parish ministry, and learn stories from the field through Catholic Relief Services (CRS) colleagues.
* Provide biannual updates of activities to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Catholic Relief Services office. This will allow the CRS office to understand ongoing activities, accomplishments and challenges, share best practices among GSAs throughout the Archdiocese, and identify areas where support from the Archdiocese could be beneficial on an individual or group basis.
* Report to the pastor/parish administrator in this position, unless he has identified someone else within the parish administration as the primary parish staff contact for the GSA. It will be very important to ensure that the pastor/parish administrator is kept informed of the global solidarity activities, and that their permission is granted for significant new activities or the redirection of activities related to this program.