



November 3, 2023

Dear Monsignor or Father,

Our Diocese annually takes up the collection for the **Diocesan Poverty Relief Fund and Catholic Relief Services** on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. This year, the appeal will take place the weekend of November 18 and 19, 2023.

Catholic Relief Services is the authorized international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. It is the official overseas relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and a member of Caritas International. Catholic Relief Services helps to support the Holy Father's Relief Fund; the USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development; and the USCCB's Committee on International Justice and Peace. Every parish will receive materials from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops which will explain the work of Catholic Relief Services and why they are asking for support in this Appeal.

In the Diocese of Greensburg, the CRS collection is always paired with our own diocesan collection, the Diocesan Poverty Relief Fund, (DPRF) which has replaced the former Catholic Campaign for Human Development Collection (CCHD). This collection was established to enable the Diocese to add to its already impressive material assistance efforts for people in need in the communities of the diocese's four counties.

We have tremendous needs locally and this change allows our diocese to decide exactly how the poverty relief funds will be spent. It also assures parishioners who make generous contributions to the diocese that they are helping their neighbors right here in southwestern Pennsylvania. Using the DPRF, the diocese will be able to respond to requests from qualifying organizations and will even be able to provide concrete programmatic assistance in a much broader capacity than was allowed by the CCHD grant structure.

Because of the increased local need, the funds from the CRS and the DPRF will be divided so that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the contributions will remain in the diocese to support the Diocesan Poverty Relief Fund, a quarter of which will be designated to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg to provide funding for heating fuel and utilities during the particularly difficult winter months. The remaining quarter of the collection will go to CRS, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief effort.

The generous people of the Diocese of Greensburg have always been respected for standing tall in their efforts supporting the poor both at home and abroad. As we give thanks for all that God shares with us, I call upon you to implore our people to contribute to both the CRS and DPRF activities by supporting this single collection in our parishes.

Please remit the total contributed to this appeal to the Finance Office by Monday, December 11, 2023. Working together we can do so much to advance God's Kingdom on earth. With thanks to you and your people and asking God's blessing on all of you, I remain

Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, JCL
Bishop of Greensburg