



**CALLED TO WITNESS
APPLICATION FORM
August 20-30, 2010 * Bolivia**



Called to Witness is an overseas program co-sponsored by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM). It is designed to provide a short-term, firsthand experience of the developing world for adults serving and working in Catholic youth ministry. This experience will, in turn, serve as a foundation for a global solidarity partnership project between the participant, his or her parish or diocese and high school youth and CRS partners overseas. As the official relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic Church, part of CRS' mission is to "educate the people of the United States to fulfill their moral responsibilities in alleviating human suffering, removing its causes and promoting social justice." Through *Called to Witness*, CRS provides youth ministry professionals with an opportunity to enhance their ministry to young people and strengthen their ability to promote global justice in the Catholic educational community.

Called to Witness participants visit a variety of CRS project sites and begin to build solidarity with our brothers and sisters overseas *all within a spiritual context, reflecting on Catholic social teaching and specific teachings on global solidarity*. Effort is made to emphasize CRS' work that assists young people and provide an opportunity to interact with staff and partners in the host country. The *Called to Witness* experience does not aim to be a direct service program, but rather an opportunity for meeting people, developing relationships with them, learning about CRS programs and gathering information. Although participants may have the opportunity to visit some historically significant sites of interest to tourists, the **Called to Witness should be considered a "working trip" with an emphasis on learning, prayer and reflection.**

The 2010 *Called to Witness* trip will take place **August 20-30, 2010**. These dates include a one day orientation in Baltimore, and travel to and from **Bolivia**. The trip will focus particular attention on the situation of poverty with an emphasis of its impact on families and youth, health, and food and water security. Special focus will be given to church partnerships within the region of La Paz in the effort to foster relationships rooted in solidarity.

Global Solidarity Action Plan and Partnership Project

One of the most important components of the *Called to Witness* program is how participants share the experience with the young people they serve, their colleagues and community. To meet this objective, each applicant is required to submit two proposals: a **Global Solidarity Action Plan** and a **Global Solidarity Partnership Project**.

- a) The **Global Solidarity Action Plan** is a concrete proposal that demonstrates the capacity to bring the experience home. The overall goal is to integrate the experience into the participant's ministry, parish or diocesan community in order to promote global solidarity. This could be a catechetical unit, retreat experience, service project or youth ministry program that can be implemented in parish, diocesan or other church structures.
- b) The **Global Solidarity Partnership Project** is a project proposal that involves an exchange between youth ministers and young people in the United States and CRS partners overseas through a collaborative project that fosters global solidarity. **For purposes of the application, the applicant is requested to simply brainstorm or list possible ideas that can be explored with CRS and NFCYM staff during the course of the next year.** This project will be mutually agreed upon, fully developed and fleshed out during and after the trip and may take a variety of forms; however, an essential requirement is that it builds global solidarity relationships. CRS staff can help the applicant determine what is realistic prior to and during the trip.

Participants are required to demonstrate the eventual implementation of these proposals after returning to the United States. See attached project format for more detail. Selection for *Called to Witness* will hinge on the

depth, creativity and practical scope of both proposals even though their implementation may be shaped differently after the *Called to Witness* experience in Bolivia.

Finally, each participant's sponsoring institution (e.g. parish, diocese or religious community) is expected to cover \$1000.00 towards the cost of the trip; the remainder of the expenses will be paid by CRS. (If this proves to be difficult, please do NOT let this deter you from applying. If accepted, CRS will provide a comprehensive list of fundraising ideas and potential alternatives that can assist you in this effort. Additionally, the [Catholic Youth Foundation USA](#) has pledged a limited amount of scholarship/grant funds for use by *Called to Witness* participants.)

Post – Immersion Requirements: Participants in the *Called to Witness* program are also asked to assist CRS and NFCYM upon their return by:

- Implementing the **Global Solidarity Action Plan** within one year of the trip (including the submission of an end-of-year report)
- Implementing the **Global Solidarity Partnership project** within one year of the trip (including the submission of an end-of-year report)
- Serving in an advisory capacity to help shape future youth ministry trips and other education/youth ministry initiatives related to Catholic Social Teaching and global solidarity. This role obviously depends upon commitments elsewhere and will take into account both individual skills, interests and availability.
- Either presenting a workshop or serving in the CRS booth at an annual gathering sponsored by NFCYM or Episcopal region (e.g., 2010 NCCYM, 2011 Membership Meeting, 2011 NCYC, etc.)
- Implementing one CRS program of his/her choosing in his/her parish/diocese (e.g., Food Fast, *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* Initiative, Operation Rice Bowl, CRS Fair Trade Program, Standing as One Human Family retreat, etc.)
- Providing at least two presentations about the trip at a parish, school, diocesan or national level.

CRS will connect participants to CRS regional or diocesan staff and/or past *Called to Witness* participants who will serve as mentors prior to their departure and at least six months after returning home. Assistance and guidance in the aforementioned projects will be provided through these mentor relationships and CRS national staff.

Deadline for all applications is **June 4, 2010**. Approximately six to eight participants, representative of the diversity of Catholic youth ministry in the United States, will be selected for the trip from a nationwide pool. Because the number of participants for the trip is limited, **only one participant per diocese** can be selected. NFCYM and CRS staff members, as well as past *Called to Witness* participants, will select participants **who have met all application requirements:**

- 1) submission of completed questionnaire and signed application form
- 2) submission of a current resume
- 3) sample catechetical lesson/program plan of a social justice or global solidarity activity or lesson
- 4) a global solidarity action plan
- 5) a global solidarity partnership project proposal
- 6) a letter of recommendation from a pastor/supervisor, religious community director, diocesan director of youth ministry or local bishop. **The letter should also indicate full understanding and support of the global solidarity partnership project.**
- 7) ALL materials must be received no later than June 4, 2010 to be considered.

Final candidates will be interviewed by phone. Participants can expect to be notified by June 11, 2010.



**CALLED TO WITNESS 2010
APPLICATION CHECKLIST**



REMINDER: ALL APPLICANTS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN THEIR APPLICATION PACKAGE:

- _____ Completed questionnaire and signed application form (if emailing, simply type your name)
- _____ A current résumé/currículum vitae
- _____ Global Solidarity Action Plan
- _____ Global Solidarity Partnership Project Plan
- _____ Sample catechetical lesson/program plan of a Catholic Social Teaching, poverty, or global solidarity activity or lesson
- _____ A letter of recommendation from your pastor/supervisor, religious community director, diocesan director of youth ministry or local bishop. **The letter should also indicate full understanding and support of the global solidarity partnership project. This may be mailed or emailed separately.**

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JUNE 4, 2010.
PLEASE SEND/EMAIL ALL COMPLETED APPLICATION MATERIALS TO TED MILES (tmiles@crs.org).**

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
U.S. OPERATIONS
ATTN: TED MILES, CALLED TO WITNESS
228 W. LEXINGTON STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21201**

For more information about *Called to Witness*, contact:

Ted Miles - Catholic Relief Services

Phone: 410-951-7475 Email: tmiles@crs.org

www.crs.org

Matthew Robaszkiewicz - National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry

Phone: 202-674-4209 Email: matthewr@nfcym.org

www.nfcym.org

If mailing the application, notify Ted or Matthew to ensure it has been received.

CALLED TO WITNESS 2010
Application

Please answer the following questions carefully and thoughtfully as applicants will be selected on the basis of their potential to communicate this experience to others through appropriate initiatives upon their return.

Name:

Title:

Parish Name or Diocesan office:

Parish/Diocesan Address:

Parish/Diocesan City, State, Zip

Parish/Diocesan Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

E-Mail:

Home Street Address:

Home City, State, Zip

Home or Cell Telephone Number:

Birth Date:

Sex: M F

1. Describe your long-term goals in Catholic youth ministry and/or religious education.
2. What do you hope to gain professionally and personally from your experience as a participant in the *Called to Witness* program? How do you see this experience enhancing your ministry?
3. A portion of the *Called to Witness* program will focus on the exchange of experiences and information between the visiting youth ministers and CRS partners overseas. Please give a specific example of what you feel you would bring to such an exchange in order to enrich it.
4. Describe any previous experience you have had traveling, working or volunteering in a developing country. Identify the country, year, length of stay and general purpose of the trip. (Lack of this experience will *not* disqualify any candidate.)
5. List any foreign languages spoken and indicate the level of proficiency achieved. (Lack of this experience will not disqualify any candidate.)
6. Travel in a less-developed country can be rigorous and demanding, and may not be advisable for persons with certain physical conditions such as allergies, heart problems, physical disabilities, recent surgeries, dietary requirements, etc. Please indicate any concerns you may have with regard to travel to South America.

Attachments: Please attach or include the following:

- A current résumé/curriculum vitae** outlining past and present responsibilities in the area of Catholic youth ministry (i.e., years of experience, positions held, specific responsibilities, etc.) and a description of any other relevant community/civic involvement, parish involvement and volunteer work

- Social Justice Lesson Plan / Activity:** Please submit a program outline of a religious education lesson or youth ministry activity you created or helped young people develop that focuses on Catholic Social Teaching, poverty, social justice or global solidarity. Examples may include but are not limited to a specific catechetical lesson or unit, a retreat outline, or a parish-wide activity.

- Global Solidarity Action Plan:** One of the most important components of the *Called to Witness* program is how participants share the experience with the young people they serve, their colleagues and community. **Using the guidelines included with this application**, describe how you might integrate the overseas experience into your ministry to raise awareness of the poor overseas and to educate U.S. Catholics about their moral responsibility to promote global justice and peace. The proposal must be detailed, specific and concrete. Selection for *Called to Witness* will hinge on the depth, creativity and practical scope of the proposal. **Please use the guidelines provided, but do not let them hinder your creativity.**

- Global Solidarity Partnership Proposal:** In two or three paragraphs, list and/or describe ideas that you wish to explore in the effort to develop an exchange between youth ministers and/or young people in the United States and CRS partners overseas. This proposal might highlight a collaborative project that aims to foster global solidarity and an increased awareness of social justice issues that impact our world.

Post – Immersion Requirements: Participants in the *Called to Witness* program will also be asked to assist CRS and NFCYM upon their return by:

- Implementing the **Global Solidarity Action Plan** within one year of the trip (including the submission of an end-of-year report)

- Implementing the **Global Solidarity Partnership project** within one year of the trip (including the submission of an end-of-year report)

- Serving in an advisory capacity to help shape future youth ministry trips and other education/youth ministry initiatives related to Catholic Social Teaching and global solidarity. This role obviously depends upon commitments elsewhere and will take into account both individual skills, interests and availability.

- Either presenting a workshop or serving in the CRS booth at an annual gathering sponsored by NFCYM or Episcopal region (e.g., 2010 NCCYM, 2011 Membership Meeting, 2011 NCCY, etc.)

- Implementing one CRS program of his/her choosing in his/her parish/diocese (e.g., Food Fast, *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* Initiative, Operation Rice Bowl, CRS Fair Trade Program, Standing as One Human Family retreat, etc.)

- Providing at least two presentations about the trip at a parish, school, diocesan or national level.

I recognize the commitment involved with participating in the Called to Witness program, and I am willing and able to commit to participating in such follow-up activities.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Global Solidarity Action Plan Guidelines

One of the most important components of the *Called to Witness* program is how participants share the experience with their young people and colleagues upon their return to the United States. Please use this format to detail how you plan to integrate the overseas experience into your ministry to raise awareness of the poor overseas and educate U.S. youth and your community as to their moral responsibility to promote global justice and peace. This proposal must be detailed, specific and concrete. Selection for *Called to Witness* will hinge on the depth, creativity and practical scope of the proposal.

I. Title of the project:

II. Overview of the Action Plan: (summary)

Summarize in 3-5 sentences the overview of the action plan.

III. Objectives:

Describe what you hope to accomplish with regard to

- the Project as a whole
- your Parish, Diocese and/or young people whom you serve
- the CRS Partnership (ideas on how you might be able to integrate a CRS program or how to connects to your Global Solidarity Partnership Proposal)

VI. Structure and Detail of Action Plan:

Describe your plan with as much detail as possible, specifying various segments as much as possible. Elements you might wish to include are:

- Various strategies or methodology (e.g., activities, critical thinking exercises, discussion topics, prayer style, scripture links, etc.) that may be used to achieve the objectives you named above
- Connection to Catholic Social Teaching principles
- Youth leadership / peer ministry / advocacy applications (What can young people do practically after participating in this plan?)
- Solidarity in action: What does it call for? What does it look like?

V. Timeline (describe a general possible outline, indicating weeks or phases etc.)