



**CALLED TO WITNESS
APPLICATION FORM
May 7-17, 2012 * El Salvador**



**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY**

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 action plan as well as youth ministry resource development focused on Catholic Social Teaching and global solidarity. As the official relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic Church, the mission of CRS includes the commitment 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 parish, diocesan and national youth ministers with a global experience to help them call and empower young people to an active commitment to working for solidarity, peace and justice.

Called to Witness participants visit a variety of CRS programs and begin building 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 to provide opportunities for interaction with CRS 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, and learning about the work of the Church around the world with the hope of enhancing faith formation and youth ministries. Although participants may have the opportunity to visit some historically significant sites of interest, *Called to Witness* should be considered a "study trip" with an emphasis on learning, prayer and reflection.

The 2012 *Called to Witness* is tentatively scheduled for May 7-17, 2012. These dates include a 1-day orientation in Baltimore, and travel to and from **El Salvador**. Among the many situations and realities explored, the trip will give particular attention to peacebuilding, youth violence prevention programming, water security and integral human development.

Objectives:

- Play a leadership role on the *Called to Witness* trip to El Salvador.
- Continue the depth of learning and commitment to CRS' mission, work and programs.
- Assist CRS and NFCYM in making stronger and lasting connections with Catholic youth and youth ministry and in empowering young people to live their faith in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Qualifications and Responsibilities:

- A desire and commitment to spread the message of global solidarity and to assist with the further integration of Catholic Social Teaching into the vision and life of Catholic youth ministry.
- Employment or ongoing volunteer commitment within Catholic Youth Ministry and aged 21 or older.
- Ability and time to work collaboratively with CRS and NFCYM staff members before, during and after the trip. This collaboration includes the following:
 - o Trip preparation beginning in January 2012 (includes 2-3 conference calls);
 - o Attendance for the entire trip (travel to Baltimore on May 6 or 7; trip during May 7-17, 2012);
 - o Implementation of a **global solidarity action plan** (see page 2 for more information) in parish community, (arch)diocese or itinerant ministry within one year of the trip;

- And, assistance with CRS and NFCYM on the development of a global solidarity educational initiative suitable for adolescent faith formation and youth ministry (will include an additional 2-3 day gathering within one year of the trip).
- ☐ Presentation of a workshop *or* assistance in a CRS exhibit at an annual gathering sponsored by CRS, NFCYM, an episcopal region or (arch)diocese (e.g., 2012 NCCYM, 2013 Membership Meeting, Region Catholic Youth Conference, Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, etc.).
- ☐ Implementation of one CRS program (e.g., Food Fast, *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* Initiative, Operation Rice Bowl, CRS Fair Trade Program, etc.) of the participant's choosing at the parish, (arch)diocesan, regional or national level.
- ☐ At least two presentations about the trip at the parish, (arch)diocesan, regional or national level.

CRS will connect participants to CRS regional and 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 by *Called to Witness* mentors and CRS staff.

Global Solidarity Action Plan Proposal:

One of the most important components of the *Called to Witness* program is how participants share the experience with the young people they serve as well as the wider Catholic community. To meet this objective, each applicant is required to submit a Global Solidarity Action Plan Proposal. The Global Solidarity Action Plan should consist of possible ideas for bringing the experience back home: a one-page description, outline or list of concrete ideas that demonstrates the capacity to integrate the experience into the participant's primary ministry. The overall goal is to raise awareness of the poor overseas and to educate young people about our moral responsibility to promote global justice. While the plan may be shaped in a variety of ways, an essential requirement is that it fosters a vision of global solidarity within Catholic youth ministry and should go beyond simply speaking at masses for one weekend. This project will be mutually agreed upon and fully developed with the help of CRS staff after the trip.

Costs:

CRS will provide transportation, lodging and meals for the *Called to Witness* trip. Passport and pre-trip medical, vaccination and prescription expenses and trip incidentals are the responsibility of the participant.

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 are 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 (www.cyfusa.org) has pledged a limited amount of scholarship/grant funds for use by *Called to Witness* participants.

Application Checklist:

Deadline for application is **Monday, January 9, 2012**. Approximately 7-8 participants, representative of the diversity of Catholic youth ministry in the United States, will be selected for the trip from a nationwide pool. NFCYM and CRS staff members, as well as *Called to Witness* alumni, will select participants from applicants **who have submitted all requirements for their application package:**

- ☐ completed questionnaire and signed application form.
- ☐ current résumé.
- ☐ sample catechetical lesson/program plan of a social justice or global solidarity activity or lesson.
- ☐ global solidarity action plan proposal.
- ☐ letter of recommendation from pastor/supervisor, religious community director, (arch)diocesan director of youth ministry or local (arch)bishop indicating **full understanding and support of the advance and follow-up commitments for this trip.** (This letter may be mailed or emailed separately.)

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN **MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2012**. PLEASE EMAIL ALL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO **TED MILES (Ted.Miles@crs.org)** or MAIL TO:

**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: Ted.Miles@crs.org

www.crs.org

education.crs.org

foodfast.org

Matthew Robaszekiewicz

National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry

Phone: 202/636-3825

Email: matthewr@nfcym.org

www.nfcym.org

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

Final candidates may be interviewed by phone. Participants can expect to be notified by January 20, 2012.

CALLED TO WITNESS 2012
Application

Please answer the following questions carefully and thoughtfully. Applicants will be selected on the basis of their potential to communicate the overseas experience through appropriate initiatives upon their return. Application deadline is January 9, 2012.

Name:

Title:

Place of Ministry (e.g., parish or organization name; diocesan office):

Place of Ministry Address:

Place of Ministry City, State, Zip:

Work Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

E-Mail:

Home Street Address:

Home City, State, Zip

Home or Cell Telephone Number:

Birth Date:

Sex: M F

General Information Questions:

1. Describe any previous experience (service or immersion) you have had traveling, working or volunteering in a developing country or mission-based setting. Identify the location, length of stay and general purpose of the experience. (Lack of this experience will *not* disqualify any candidate.)
2. List any foreign languages spoken and indicate the level of proficiency achieved. (Lack of this experience will *not* disqualify any candidate.)
3. 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, extreme dietary or mobility restrictions, etc. Please indicate any concerns you may have with regard to travel to Central America.

Reflection Questions:

4. Describe your long-term goals in Catholic youth ministry and/or faith formation.
5. 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 with young people?

6. A portion of the *Called to Witness* program will focus on the exchange of experiences and information between the *Called to Witness* participants and CRS partners. Please describe what you bring to such an exchange in order to enrich it. Feel free to provide specific examples to illustrate your answer.
7. Describe your experience around or understanding of global solidarity? What does it mean to “live your faith in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world”?

Attachments: Please attach or include the following:

- Current Résumé:** Provide an overview of 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. (1-3 pages)
- Social Justice Lesson Plan / Activity:** Submit a program outline of a religious education lesson or youth ministry activity YOU created or helped young people develop that focuses on a faith theme related to Catholic Social Teaching (e.g., service, social justice, mission, poverty, discipleship, one of the 7 themes of CST, etc.). Examples may include but are not limited to a specific catechetical lesson or unit, retreat, youth group night or parish-wide activity.
- Global Solidarity Action Plan Proposal:** Provide a one-page description, outline or list of concrete ideas that demonstrates the capacity to integrate the experience into your primary ministry. The overall goal is to raise awareness of the poor overseas, to educate young people about our moral responsibility to promote global justice and to foster a vision of global solidarity within Catholic youth ministry. This project will be mutually agreed upon and fully developed after the trip.
- A Letter of Recommendation:** letter of recommendation from pastor/supervisor, religious community director, (arch)diocesan director of youth ministry or local (arch)bishop indicating **full understanding and support of the advance and follow-up commitments for this trip.** (This may be mailed or emailed separately from.)

Statement of Commitment:

I recognize the commitment involved with participating in the Called to Witness program, and I am willing and able to commit to the following:

- Collaboration with CRS and NFCYM before, during and after the trip. I understand this collaboration includes the following:
 - o Trip preparation beginning in January 2012 (to include 2-3 conference calls);
 - o Attendance for the entire trip (travel to Baltimore on May 6 or 7; trip during May 7-17, 2012);
 - o Implementation of a global solidarity action plan in my parish community, (arch)diocese or itinerant ministry within one year of the trip;
 - o And, assistance with CRS and NFCYM on the development of a global solidarity educational initiative suitable for adolescent faith formation and youth ministry (will include an additional 2-3 day gathering within the year that follows).
- Presentation of a workshop or assistance in the CRS booth at an annual gathering sponsored by CRS, NFCYM, an episcopal region or (arch)diocese
- Implementation of one CRS program (e.g., Food Fast, *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* Initiative, Operation Rice Bowl, CRS Fair Trade Program, etc.) of my choosing at the parish, (arch)diocesan, regional or national level.
- Provision of at least two presentations at the parish, (arch)diocesan, regional or national level.

Applicant's Signature

Date