

Office of Life Ministry, Diocese of Saint Petersburg 2025/26 CRS Rice Bowl Mini-Grant Application and Guidelines Including Eligibility and Non-Eligibility Criteria



Office of
Life, Justice and
Advocacy

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Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic community. CRS alleviates suffering and provides assistance to people in need in more than 100 countries without regard to race, religion or nationality.

Each Lent, parishes, schools, and campus ministries of the Diocese of St. Petersburg participate in Rice Bowl, the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) educational program of prayer, fasting, learning, and giving. CRS Rice Bowl in the Diocese of St. Petersburg is coordinated by the Office of Life, Justice & Advocacy. Of the funds available for distribution from the CRS Rice Bowl collection, 75% goes to the CRS international headquarters in Baltimore, MD and is used to fund development projects overseas, and 25% remains here in our diocese. The 25% retained by our Diocese is now being made available to fund grants of up to \$1,000.00 for local hunger and poverty alleviation efforts by Diocesan entities.

CRS Rice Bowl Mini-Grant funded projects must:

1. Be carried out under the auspices of a Catholic entity, e.g., parish, school, campus ministry office. Grant applications must be signed by a pastor or the appropriate director or principal as well as by the project director/coordinator.
2. Address local socio-economic issues that are analogous to the poverty and hunger alleviation efforts that CRS does internationally (e.g. food assistance, nutrition projects, poverty alleviation, and economic empowerment). Funded efforts may include educational initiatives to raise awareness of issues consistent with the range of poverty and food security issues addressed by CRS (e.g. JustFaith Ministry/Social Justice Education Start Up.) The project can be part of a larger program.
3. Operate in accord with Catholic Social Teaching, summarized on page two of this grant document. Preference may be given to programs with the greatest financial need. Other strong consideration will be given to programs that:
 - a) Involve multiple segments of the parish, school, or organization in their outreach, particularly youth.
 - b) Emphasize development of the individual rather than simply providing direct assistance.
 - c) Belong to a school or parish that has demonstrated increased participation in the CRS Rice Bowl program.
4. Advertise CRS as a co-funder of your outreach and share the news of the receipt of the grant in parish bulletins, school newsletters, etc. Brief mention of the work of Catholic Relief Services in such announcements is also requested. A short description of CRS is given at left.
5. Agree to submit a one-page typewritten evaluation describing succinctly:
 - a) the project and project accomplishments;
 - b) how CRS Mini-Grant funds were used to help meet the goals of the project;
 - c) plans for continuation of the project; and
 - d) efforts made during project implementation to share CST and the work of CRS.

Completed evaluations are to be signed by the project director/coordinator and sent to the Office of Life, Justice and Advocacy **within one year of receipt of grant funds**. Previous CRS Mini-Grant recipients **must** have submitted an evaluation to receive further grant funds.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING - 7 Themes

Catholic Social Teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic Social Teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents. The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents. In these brief reflections, we wish to highlight seven of the key themes that are at the heart of Catholic social tradition.

LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia. Human life is threatened by cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and the use of the death penalty. The intentional targeting of civilians in war or terrorist attacks is always wrong. Catholic teaching calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND PARTICIPATION

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society—in economics and politics, in law and policy—directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected, and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to live and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt. 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected—the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

SOLIDARITY

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that "if you want peace, work for justice."¹ The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

¹ Paul VI, *For the Celebration of the Day of Peace* (Rome: January 1, 1972). Copyright © 2005 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Washington, DC. Used with permission.

Please review grant guidelines and eligibility before completing this application.
Up to \$1,000 will be awarded to projects of Diocese of St. Petersburg entities that address poverty and hunger.

Please print or type the information requested in Section I and III. Section II must be typed.
This application is available in WORD format upon request.

I. Organizational information:

Organization Submitting Proposal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Project Contact Person

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Name of Project _____

Total Annual Budget for Project \$ _____ Requested CRS Mini-Grant Amount \$ _____

Did the Catholic entity sponsoring this project request a CRS Mini-Grant last year? Yes _____ No _____

If 'Yes', please indicate the amount received: \$ _____

If 'Yes', are requested funds for a different project? Yes _____ No _____

Does the project conform to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching? Yes _____ No _____

Has this project applied for and/or received funding parish, diocesan, or other sources? Yes _____ No _____

If 'Yes', please specify source(s) in Section III B of this application.

TWO Signatures Required:

Signature of Pastor, Dept Head, or School Principal

Print name and position

Signature of Project Director/Coordinator

Print name and position

II. On a maximum of two additional pages, please type the following information:

1. The **problem to be addressed** – the goal of the project.
2. The **specific activity** for which you will use the CRS Mini-Grant funding to address the problem.
3. The **specific ways** in which members of your parish, school, campus ministry, and/or organization will be involved, and how you will incorporate the project into parish, school, or organization life.
4. The **timeline** for the project.
5. The **benefits** expected from the project for the parish/school/organization/community.

III. Budget for proposed project

Provide below the budget for the proposed project, stating how the CRS Rice Bowl Mini-Grant funds will be used. In sub-section B below, please list other financial resources that will support the project.

A. Project Expenses	Amount from Project Budget	Amount from CRS Mini-Grant to be used
1. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
2. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
3. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
4. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
5. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____	\$ _____

B. Please list other financial resources for this project, including any funds from the parish or other sources.

Source	Status*	Amount
1. _____	_____	\$ _____
2. _____	_____	\$ _____
3. _____	_____	\$ _____
4. _____	_____	\$ _____
5. _____	_____	\$ _____
Total		\$ _____

*Status (please indicate): R = Received, AF = Applied For, PAF = Plan to Apply For

Please return completed application and supplementary pages (Section II) by February 5th, 2026 to:

Office of Life, Justice and Advocacy

Diocese of St. Petersburg
PO Box 40200
St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0200

mmdadmin@dosp.org

Awards will be announced on February 9, 2026