

The Stations of the Cross

STATION 1 **Jesus is condemned**

In **Madagascar**, the majority of the population live in rural areas and work as subsistence farmers. Ineffective farming techniques, limited sanitation systems and frequent droughts have condemned more than half of the population to live below the poverty line.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: **CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION**

We are called to be good stewards of what has been entrusted to us. Through protecting the environment in which we live, we respect the goodness of nature, a gift God has given.

Catholic Relief Services has worked with the Malagasy people to improve farming methods and foster environmental sustainability in rural communities throughout the country.

STATION 2 **Jesus carries the cross**

In rural **El Salvador**, women and children walk for hours each day to the river to retrieve and carry water that will be used for cooking, bathing and drinking.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: **RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

We must take responsibility to protect the rights of all people. These rights include the right to life, food, water, shelter, education, and employment, along with political and cultural rights.

When CRS helped build a well in rural El Salvador, 130 families in El Pedregal gained access to clean water in their homes.

STATION 3 **Jesus falls the 1st time**

In **Zambia**, 64% of the population has fallen beneath the cross of poverty. Widespread malnutrition and a high prevalence of HIV and AIDS have contributed to this reality.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: **DIGNITY OF WORK AND RIGHTS OF WORKERS**

The ability to work to earn a living is a right of all people. All workers have the right to a fair wage, to organize themselves, and to work in good conditions.

In Zambia, CRS organizes Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) which help people in the poorest communities earn more money to support their families and set aside savings for the future.

STATION 4 **Jesus meets His mother**

In **India**, mothers and their infants often do not receive the medical care and adequate nutrition they need for healthy growth and development.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: **OPTION FOR THE POOR**

As a community of faith, we have the obligation to reach out to those most in need.

The Gospel specifically calls us to take action on behalf of the most vulnerable members of society.

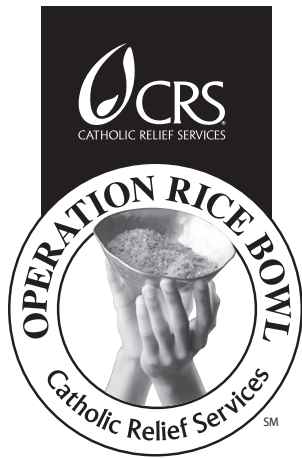
CRS is working with local health care workers in India to ensure that mothers and their children receive healthy foods, vitamins and proper immunizations.

STATION 5 **Simon helps Jesus carry the cross**

Since 1943 Catholic Relief Services has helped carry the cross for our brothers and sisters in need by providing assistance with housing, water systems, health services, agriculture, and response to emergencies.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: **SOLIDARITY**

We are one human family, regardless of our differences. Answering the call to love our neighbors will promote a culture of respect and lead to peace in our communities around the world.



STATION 6 **Veronica wipes the face of Jesus**

There are more than 1 billion people around the world who regularly suffer from hunger and malnutrition. Most are women and children.

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STATION 7 **Jesus falls the 2nd time**

Schools in **Vietnam** often lack resources to serve students with disabilities. As a result, these students are often unable to reach their potential, and they fall beneath the cross of poverty.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: **DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON**

All humanity has been made in the image of God. Through our actions we must express that each person is precious and that the lives and welfare of all people are priorities.

CRS supports inclusive education for people with disabilities in schools and vocational colleges around the country.

STATION 8 **Jesus comforts the women**

In **India**, more than 40% of children under the age of five are underweight. Children who suffer from malnutrition at a young age are at greater risk to suffer illness or death.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: **OPTION FOR THE POOR**

As a community of faith, we have the obligation to reach out to those most in need. The Gospel specifically calls us to take action on behalf of the most vulnerable members of society.

CRS, in cooperation with the government of India, trains health workers to educate mothers about good nutrition and immunizations for themselves and their children.

STATION 9 **Jesus falls the 3rd time**

In **Zambia**, women often fall beneath the burden of supporting their families without a stable source of income.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: **DIGNITY OF WORK AND RIGHTS OF WORKERS**

The ability to work to earn a living is a right of all people. All workers have the right to a fair wage, to organize themselves, and to work in good conditions.

CRS Savings and Internal Lending Communities are committed to serving the very poor, especially women and vulnerable populations in remote rural communities.

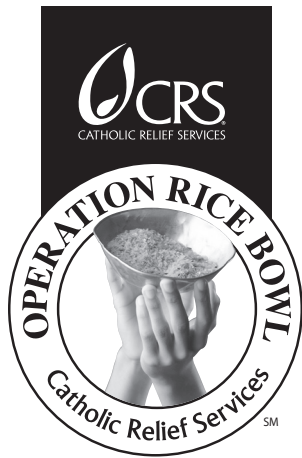
STATION 10 **Jesus is stripped of His garments**

Today in the **United States**, 15.1% of the population is living in poverty.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: **COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION**

Human beings are not only sacred, but social. How we participate in our family and community, from our daily actions to our policy decisions, affects each and every person.

In the Diocese of Arlington, a portion of local CRS Operation Rice Bowl funds supports Feed My Sheep. Feed My Sheep provides emergency food assistance and household supplies to families in rural Virginia. Volunteers also help people who are unemployed write resumes and find jobs.



STATION 11 **Jesus is nailed to the cross**

In **Madagascar**, subsistence farmers are often nailed to the cross of poverty when their harvests do not yield enough food to feed their families for the whole year.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: **CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION**

We are called to be good stewards of what has been entrusted to us. Through protecting the environment in which we live, we respect the goodness of nature, a gift God has given.

When CRS introduced a treadle pump, drought resistant seeds and new growing techniques to a village in rural Madagascar, the community was able to produce enough food to last twelve months.

STATION 12 **Jesus dies on the cross**

Jesus died on the cross for us. In our own actions, we must follow Christ's example of service to others. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus teaches us that when we *feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, offer shelter to the stranger and comfort those who are ill*, we are also serving Him.

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Human beings are not only sacred, but social. How we participate in our family and community, from our daily actions to our policy decisions, affects each and every person.

STATION 13 **Jesus is taken down from the cross**

In **Vietnam**, there are thousands of children with physical disabilities, including hearing loss, blindness, paralysis and cerebral palsy.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: **DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON**

All humanity has been made in the image of God. Through our actions we must express that each person is precious and that the lives and welfare of all people are priorities.

CRS' Inclusion of Vietnamese with Disabilities (IVWD) program helps people with physical disabilities achieve higher education and find good jobs. Youth and young adults with disabilities in Vietnam are now able to go to school and achieve their greatest potential.

STATION 14 **Jesus is buried**

Because of limited sanitation systems in **El Salvador**, water used for drinking, cooking and bathing is often unhygienic and unsafe.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: **RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

We must take responsibility to protect the rights of all people. These rights include the right to life, food, water, shelter, education, and employment, along with political and cultural rights.

CRS' water and sanitation programs help bring clean water to families and communities around the world, and clean water means better health, especially for young children.

Jesus is risen, Alleluia!

Truly, Christ is Risen! He invites us to serve him in serving our brothers and sisters. Let us go then, and proclaim, Christ is Risen! Amen.