



MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN RURAL AMERICA

Become a Member
of Catholic Rural Life



CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE

Learn how you can join **Catholic Rural Life** – the only national Catholic nonprofit organization addressing today's challenges and opportunities for rural communities, through education, advocacy and inspiring stories of faith in action.

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A Countryside in Crisis

Once the backbone of American society, today's rural communities face a number of challenges, both spiritual and material:

- A shortage of priests and the need for authentic spiritual revitalization.
- Poverty, unemployment, and an industrialized food market that's stacked against family-owned farms.
- Ecological degradation of vital natural resources, like freshwater and topsoil.
- Ethical challenges in agriculture, from the responsible use of biotechnology to the just treatment of migrant workers.

Why the Countryside Matters

Despite significant urbanization in recent decades, 50 million Americans still live in the countryside. Rural communities remain vital to the well-being of not only the country, but the Catholic Church.

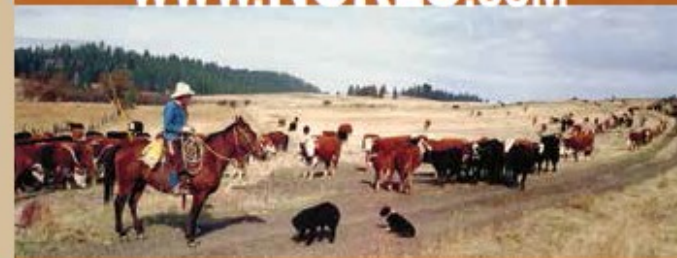
Here's why the countryside is so crucial:

- The majority of priestly and religious vocations come from rural communities.
- Eating is a moral act, and Catholics have a responsibility to call for ethical practices in agriculture and food production.
- Rural Americans have a special connection with the environment, and are essential stewards of creation.



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www.NCRLC.com



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WHAT IS CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE?

We are a nonprofit organization focused on renewing Catholic faith in rural communities. Since 1923, Catholic Rural Life (CRL) has been applying the teachings of Jesus Christ for the social, economic, and spiritual development of rural America, strengthening and sustaining the Church in the countryside by educating and inspiring leaders and advocating on their behalf.



WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE?

Your membership enables CRL to train and equip thousands of men and women to put their faith in action in rural communities, planting seeds of hope and truth, and transforming rural America for the glory of God. CRL does this in collaboration with dioceses nationwide through our three program areas of impact:

Rural Outreach and Ministry

- **Lay Leadership Program** – Educate lay leaders to bring about spiritual revitalization in their parishes through catechetical study groups.
- **Rural Ministry Practicum** – Work with seminaries to provide future priests with resources and knowledge for ministry in rural parishes and communities.
- **Native American Scholarship Program** – Support the education of Native American students committed to sustainable and traditional agricultural practices.

Ethical Food and Agriculture

- **Policy Advocacy** – Promote public policies that support family farms and ensure the economic vitality of rural communities.
- **Vocation of the Agricultural Leader** – Provide future leaders in food and agriculture with practical resources that integrate their faith with their work.
- **Farmer-to-Farmer** – Connect volunteers with agricultural expertise to service opportunities in developing East African nations.

Stewardship of Creation

- **Environmental Awareness** – Collaborate with the U.S. bishops to increase public engagement with environmental issues from a faith-based perspective.
- **Stewardship Study Guides** – Produce study materials and backgrounders that make the connection between the Catholic faith and environmental stewardship.

BECOME A MEMBER OF CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE TODAY

In addition to contributing to the revitalization of the American countryside, CRL members receive access to essential resources pertaining to rural life.

- **Catholic Rural Life Magazine** – Tri-annual publication provides inspiring and edifying stories about Catholics in the countryside and the Church's wisdom on rural matters.
- **eBulletin** – Weekly email newsletter keeps you informed of CRL's latest work and the week's biggest issues facing rural communities.
- **Resources** (Free or for a nominal cost) – Everything from our Rural Life Prayer Book to our *Cooking for Christ* cookbook.
- **Recognition Awards** – CRL presents awards to members who demonstrate extraordinary service to the Church in rural communities.

Here's how to become a member:

- **Register or renew online by visiting www.ncrlc.com and clicking on Membership**
- or
- **Fill out and send in our membership envelope**

We look forward to welcoming you to Catholic Rural Life. Our members make all of this good work possible!

