



SOWING SEEDS

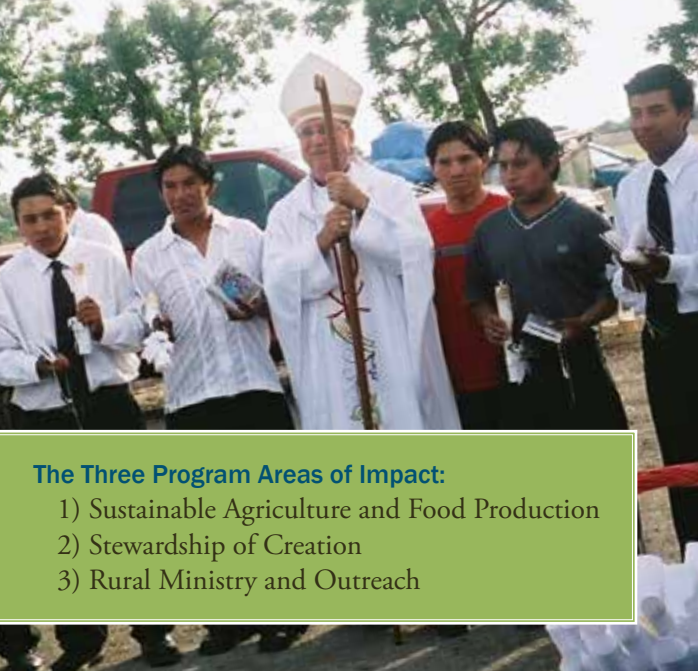
A CAMPAIGN TO RENEW CATHOLIC FAITH
IN RURAL AMERICA



CATHOLICRURALLIFE

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*CRL is the only national Catholic organization
working on challenges facing rural communities,
especially for the poor and vulnerable.*



The Three Program Areas of Impact:

- 1) Sustainable Agriculture and Food Production
- 2) Stewardship of Creation
- 3) Rural Ministry and Outreach

“Let us be renewed by God’s mercy ... and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish.”

—POPE FRANCIS



Mission and History

Applying the teachings of Jesus Christ for the betterment of rural America and equipping leaders through education and advocacy is the mission of Catholic Rural Life (CRL). Established in 1923, CRL has served the common good by standing as a powerful pillar of the Church protecting and promoting vibrant rural life in America for over 90 years.

Catholic Rural Life Advocates, Educates, and Inspires

Through its network of leaders in 46 states and 105 dioceses, CRL advocates for justice by applying Catholic teaching to agriculture & environmental stewardship, and rural ministry and outreach, especially on behalf of the poor and the vulnerable.

CRL programs educate and develop leaders in rural communities, informing laypersons, religious, seminarians, and priests and bishops about the issues facing rural communities.

CRL’s communications—magazine, eBulletin, website, LinkedIn, Facebook, & Twitter—and recognition awards—St. Isidore & Maria Award and the Edwin V. O’Hara Advocacy Award—highlight inspiring models of faith in action.

The Crisis in Rural America is Staggering

- Over 50 million people live in rural America:
 - High poverty rates in many rural communities.
 - 48 of the 50 most impoverished counties in the US are located in rural communities.
 - A shortage of priests cover multiple parishes across large geographies.
- Lack of financial and human resources to support outreach and discipleship efforts in many rural communities.
- Significant increases in the use and dependence on chemical pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides.
- Increasing ground water and surface water contamination.

Needs:

- Educate and Develop Lay Leaders
- Educate and Develop Future Rural Priests
- Educate and Develop Food and Agriculture Leaders

The Need Has Never Been Greater

Impact:

Your financial contribution will help

CRL to:

- Train more lay leaders through leadership programs for rural parishes
- Train more future priests through rural ministry practicums at seminaries each year
- Address hunger and poverty in rural communities through strategic partnerships, education, and advocacy
- Develop and provide more faith resources for agricultural and food leaders
- Present the intersection of faith, food, and the environment to leaders
- Provide educational scholarships for Native Americans in rural communities

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