



# DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

*Office of the Bishop*

March 19/20, 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

We watched in disbelief this summer as Afghans, desperate to leave their country, clung to a plane as it left the runway. Afghan citizens left behind face a dire situation. According to Catholic Relief Services (CRS), more than half the country's citizens are now facing acute food insecurity. According to the United Nations, if no action is taken, more than 100,000 children could die of starvation.


Catholic Relief Services is in Afghanistan helping its people combat food insecurity, access education, and build a better life. Next weekend, **March 26-27**, we have a great opportunity to support CRS' work in Afghanistan and in more than 100 other countries through the annual CRS Collection taking place in our parishes.

This collection is the main source of funding for six important Church-related agencies - Catholic Relief Services; the USCCB Offices of International Justice and Peace, Migration and Refugee Services, and Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees; the relief work of the Holy Father; and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network.

Your support of this critical collection reveals Christ's love to many here and around the globe. We who are the Church have a responsibility to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, comfort those in prison, and welcome the stranger, wherever they may be. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection this year. For more information on the organizations whose work benefits from your generosity, please visit [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).

Thank you for your generous support!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak  
Bishop of Grand Rapids