



**CALLED TO WITNESS
APPLICATION FORM
May 15-25, 2017 * Ethiopia**



**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY
and the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY LEADERS**

Called to Witness is an overseas program co-sponsored by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) and the National Association of Catholic Youth Ministry Leaders. It is designed to provide a short-term, firsthand experience of the developing world for adults serving and working in Catholic youth ministry. As the official relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic Church, CRS upholds a mission that includes the commitment to “educate Catholics in the United States to fulfill their moral responsibilities in alleviating human suffering, removing its causes and promoting social justice.” Through *Called to Witness*, CRS provides parish, (arch)diocesan, national and itinerant youth ministers with a global experience to help them call and empower young people to an active commitment to working for solidarity, peace and justice. This experience, in turn, serves as foundational for an individual global solidarity action plan as well as youth ministry resource development integrating Catholic Social Teaching and global solidarity.

Called to Witness participants visit a variety of CRS programs and enter into solidarity-based relationships *all within a spiritual context, reflecting on Catholic social teaching and specific teachings on global solidarity*. Effort is made to emphasize CRS’ work that supports young people and to provide opportunities for interaction with CRS staff and partners in the host country. The *Called to Witness* experience does not aim to be a direct service program, but rather an opportunity rooted in solidarity and accompaniment. It aims to foster awareness and education about the work of the Church around the world with the hope of using that knowledge to enhance U.S. Catholic faith formation and youth ministries. *Called to Witness* should be considered a "study trip" with an emphasis on solidarity, learning, prayer and reflection. Participants may have the opportunity to visit historically significant sites of interest, but this is not a focus of the trip.

The 2015 *Called to Witness* is tentatively scheduled to go to Ethiopia, May 15-25, 2017 with exact dates to be determined by late January. The experience, typically 9-10 days in total, includes a 1-day orientation in Baltimore, MD and travel to and from Ethiopia. Among the many situations and realities to be explored, the delegation will highlight CRS’ work in the areas of peacebuilding, youth programming, emergency relief, integral human development and others. Potential collaboration between NFCYM and CRS/Ethiopia will be explored, particularly as it relates to youth on the margins, poverty, climate change, and global solidarity.

Objectives:

- Participate in the *Called to Witness* experience to Ethiopia, inclusive of preparation, orientation, travel to and from Ethiopia, and a minimum commitment to a **yearlong action plan** that fosters formation in the Catholic Social Teaching principal of solidarity, especially as it relates to issues concerning immigration and youth on the margins.
- Commit to fostering creative integration of Catholic Social Teaching in faith formation of young people and awareness of how that tradition is reflected in CRS’ mission, work and programs
- Foster creative opportunities that guide young people to live their faith in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world and to understand CRS as a resource for doing so
- Assist CRS and NFCYM/NACYML in making stronger and lasting connections between our Catholic Social Tradition and the vision and practice of Catholic youth ministry in the United States

Qualifications and Responsibilities:

- A desire and commitment to spread the message of global solidarity and to assist with further integration of Catholic Social Teaching into the vision and life of Catholic youth ministry
- Employment or ongoing volunteer commitment within Catholic Youth Ministry and aged 21 or older
- Ability and time to work collaboratively with CRS and NACYML **before, during and after** the trip. This collaboration includes the following:
 - Trip preparation beginning in January 2017 (includes 2-3 conference calls);
 - Attendance in the *Called to Witness* experience *in its entirety* (includes travel to Baltimore for an orientation and to Ethiopia for delegation trip);
 - Implementation of a **global solidarity action plan** (see below for more information) in parish community, (arch)diocese, national or itinerant ministry within one year of the trip;
 - And, assistance with CRS and NACYML on the development of a global solidarity educational initiative suitable for adolescent faith formation and youth ministry (this will include an additional 2-3 day gathering within one year after the trip).
- Presentation of a workshop or assistance in a CRS exhibit at an annual gathering sponsored by CRS, NFCYM, an episcopal region or (arch)diocese (e.g., 2017 NCYC, 2018 NCCYM, 2018 Membership Meeting, Regional Catholic Youth Conferences, 2018 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, etc.).
- Implementation of at least two CRS programs (e.g., CRS FoodFast, CRS Rice Bowl, CRS Fair Trade Program, CRS Helping Hands, *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* Initiative, Leadership Training, etc.) of the participant's choosing at the parish, (arch)diocesan, regional or national level.
- At least two presentations about the experience at the parish, (arch)diocesan, regional or national level.

CRS will connect participants to CRS regional and diocesan staff and past *Called to Witness* participants who will serve as mentors prior to their departure and at least six months after returning home. Assistance and guidance in the aforementioned projects will be provided by *Called to Witness* mentors and CRS staff.

Global Solidarity Action Plan Proposal:

One of the most important components of the *Called to Witness* program is how participants share the experience with young people as well as the wider Catholic community. To meet this objective, each applicant is required to submit a Global Solidarity Action Plan Proposal. The Global Solidarity Action Plan should consist of possible ideas for bringing the experience back home: i.e., a one-page description, outline or list of concrete ideas that demonstrates the capacity to integrate the experience into the participant's primary ministry.

Given the focus of this delegation on immigration and youth on the margins, we will be looking for an integration of these themes in particular. The primary goals of the action plan are three-fold:

- to raise awareness of the poor overseas
- to educate young people about our moral responsibility to work for global justice
- to help NFCYM / NACYML foster leadership for effective evangelization with marginalized youth and increased capacity to respond to their pastoral needs.

You are encouraged to add your own vision and creativity to expand upon or enhance these goals. While the action plan may be shaped in a variety of ways, an essential requirement is that it fosters a vision of global solidarity within Catholic youth ministry and, thus, should go beyond simply speaking at masses for one weekend. ***This project will be mutually agreed upon and fully developed with the help of CRS staff during and after the trip.***

NOTE: Travel in a developing country can be physically trying due to long day; long car rides on dirt, bumpy, and windy roads; a good amount of walking/hiking; varying temperatures (to include high heat) and challenging amenities such as lack of hot water. Please consider if you are able to accept these challenges physically and with grace and patience before applying.

Costs:

CRS will provide transportation, lodging, meals and trip health insurance for the *Called to Witness* trip. Passport, pre-trip medical expenses (e.g., vaccinations, prescriptions, malaria medication, etc.) and trip incidentals are the responsibility of the participant.

Each participant ***and/or*** participant's sponsoring institution (e.g. parish, (arch)diocese or religious community) is expected to cover \$1000.00 towards the cost of the trip; the remainder of the expenses is paid by CRS. If accepted, CRS will provide a comprehensive list of fundraising ideas and potential alternatives that can assist you in this effort.

Application Checklist:

Deadline for application is **Wednesday, December 9, 2016**. Approximately 6-8 participants, representative of the diversity of Catholic youth ministry in the United States, will be selected for the trip from a nationwide pool of applicants. NFCYM, NACYML and CRS staff members, as well as *Called to Witness* alumni, will select participants from applicants **who have submitted all requirements for their application package:**

- completed questionnaire and signed application form.
- current résumé.
- A sample catechetical lesson/program plan of a social justice or global solidarity activity or lesson.
- global solidarity action plan proposal.
- letter of recommendation from pastor/supervisor, religious community director, (arch)diocesan director of youth ministry or local (arch)bishop indicating **full understanding and support of the advance and follow-up commitments for this trip**. (This letter may be mailed or emailed separately.)

APPLICATIONS **MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, December 9, 2016**. PLEASE EMAIL ALL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO **TED MILES (Ted.Miles@crs.org)** or MAIL TO:

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
U.S. OPERATIONS
ATTN: TED MILES, CALLED TO WITNESS
228 W. LEXINGTON STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21201**

For more information about *Called to Witness*, contact:

Ted Miles

Catholic Relief Services

Phone: 410/951-7475

Email: Ted.Miles@crs.org

Michael Theisen

National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry

Phone: 202/636-3825

Email: miket@nfcym.org

If mailing the application, notify Ted or Michael to ensure it has been received.

Final candidates may be interviewed by phone. Participants can expect to be notified by mid to late December.

CALLED TO WITNESS 2017
Application

Please answer the following questions carefully and thoughtfully. Applicants will be selected on the basis of their potential to communicate the overseas experience through appropriate initiatives upon their return. Application deadline is December 9, 2016. You may type or handwrite your application within this document or in a separate document.

Name:

Title:

Place of Ministry (e.g., parish or organization name; diocesan office):

Place of Ministry Address:

Place of Ministry City, State, Zip:

Work Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

E-Mail:

Home Street Address:

Home City, State, Zip

Home or Cell Telephone Number:

Birth Date:

Gender:

General Information Questions:

1. Describe any previous experience (service or immersion) you have had traveling, working or volunteering in a developing country or mission-based setting. Identify the location, length of stay and general purpose of the experience. (Lack of this experience will *not* disqualify any candidate.)
2. List any foreign languages spoken and indicate the level of proficiency achieved. (Lack of this experience will *not* disqualify any candidate.)
3. Travel in a less-developed country can be rigorous and demanding, and may not be advisable for persons with certain physical conditions such as extreme allergies, heart problems, physical disabilities, recent surgeries, extreme dietary or mobility restrictions, etc. Please indicate any concerns you may have with regard to travel to Central America.

Reflection Questions:

4. Describe your long-term goals in Catholic youth ministry and/or faith formation ministries.
5. Describe your understanding of *mission*. How do you integrate mission in your ministry with young people?
6. Describe your experience or understanding of *global solidarity*? What does it mean to “live your faith in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world”?
7. What do you hope to gain professionally and personally from your experience as a participant in the *Called to Witness* program? How do you see this experience enhancing your ministry with young people?

8. A portion of the *Called to Witness* program will focus on the exchange of experiences and information between the *Called to Witness* participants and CRS partners. Please describe what you bring to such an exchange in order to enrich it. Feel free to provide specific examples to illustrate your answer.
9. In 1-2 paragraphs, how can Catholic youth ministry be more effective in its outreach to marginalized populations and in response to high-risk behaviors or situations like gang culture, unaccompanied migration, etc.?

Attachments: Please attach or include the following:

- Current Résumé:** Provide an overview of past and present responsibilities in the area of Catholic youth ministry (i.e., years of experience, positions held, specific responsibilities, etc.) and a description of any other relevant community/civic involvement, parish involvement and volunteer work. (1-2 pages)
 - Social Justice Lesson Plan / Activity:** Submit a program outline of a religious education lesson or youth ministry activity YOU created or helped young people develop that focuses on a faith theme related to Catholic Social Teaching (e.g., service, social justice, mission, poverty, discipleship, one of the 7 themes of CST, etc.). Examples may include but are not limited to a specific catechetical lesson or unit, retreat, youth group night, bible study or parish-wide activity.
 - Global Solidarity Action Plan Proposal:** Provide a one-page description, outline or list of concrete ideas that demonstrates the capacity to integrate the experience into your primary ministry. Given the focus of this delegation on immigration and youth on the margins, we will be looking for an integration of these themes in particular. The primary goals of the action plan are three-fold:
 - a. to raise awareness of the poor overseas
 - b. to educate young people about our moral responsibility to work for global justice
 - c. to help NFCYM / NACYML foster leadership for effective evangelization with marginalized youth and increased capacity to respond to their pastoral needs.This project will be mutually agreed upon and fully developed during and after the trip.
 - A Letter of Recommendation:** letter of recommendation from pastor/supervisor, religious community director, (arch)diocesan director of youth ministry or local (arch)bishop indicating **full understanding and support of the advance and follow-up commitments for this trip.** (This may be mailed or emailed separately from.)
 - Called to Witness Statement of Commitment:** signed and dated
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Called to Witness Statement of Commitment:

I recognize the commitment involved with participating in the Called to Witness program, and I am willing and able to commit to the following:

- Collaboration with CRS, NFCYM and NACYML before, during and after the trip. I understand this collaboration includes the following:
 - Trip preparation beginning in January 2017 (to include 2-3 conference calls);
 - Attendance in the *Called to Witness* experience in its entirety, tentatively scheduled for May 15-25, 2017 (includes travel to Baltimore for an orientation and to Ethiopia for delegation trip);
 - Implementation of a global solidarity action plan in my parish community, (arch)diocese or itinerant ministry within one year of the trip;
 - And, assistance with CRS and NACYML on the development of a global solidarity educational initiative suitable for adolescent faith formation and youth ministry (will include an additional 2-3 day gathering within the year that follows).
- Presentation of a workshop or assistance in the CRS booth at an annual gathering sponsored by CRS, NFCYM, an episcopal region or (arch)diocese
- Implementation of at least 2 CRS programs (e.g., CRS FoodFast, *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* Initiative, CRS Rice Bowl, CRS Fair Trade Program, CRS Helping Hands, training, etc.) of my choosing at the parish, (arch)diocesan, regional or national level.
- Provision of at least two presentations at the parish, (arch)diocesan, regional or national level.

I understand that travel in a developing country can be physically trying due to long day; long car rides on dirt, bumpy, and windy roads; a good amount of walking/hiking; varying temperatures (to include high heat) and challenging amenities such as lack of hot water. By signing below, I believe I am able to accept these challenges physically and with grace and patience before applying.

Applicant's Signature

Date