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Cross Catholic Outreach Launches Global Initiative to Fight World Hunger and Feed Hungry Children and Families

A call to address the urgent needs of those suffering from food insecurity and extreme hunger

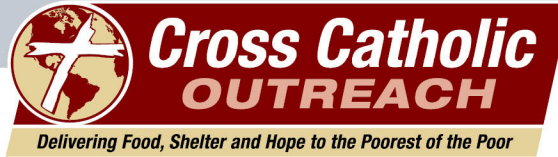
BOCA RATON, Florida — July 18, 2023 — Cross Catholic Outreach, an international Catholic nonprofit organization committed to serving the most vulnerable, is launching a comprehensive global campaign called Fight World Hunger to address food insecurity worldwide. An alarming rise in extreme hunger is affecting more than 258 million people, so Cross Catholic Outreach is launching this effort to combat food insecurity and provide nourishment to those suffering from acute hunger.

“The grim reality is that children are sacrificing education to work for their next meal, mothers are going hungry to feed their children, and young boys and girls are experiencing physical weakness and illness due to inadequate nutrition,” explained Michele Sagarino, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. “Fortunately, our ministry partners in the developing world are in a perfect position to alleviate this crisis. Our special campaign will give Catholics an opportunity to participate in an incredible Work of Mercy too. Together, we can feed these hungry families and show them the love of Jesus in a powerful and tangible way.”

Cross Catholic Outreach has established partnerships with Catholic ministry organizations in at-risk communities around the world to address the immediate needs of the most vulnerable. In the past year alone, CCO funded 23 feeding projects across 17 countries and shipped 25.9 million meals to 18 partner organizations in 10 countries, providing sustenance to thousands of families.

Through partnerships with local organizations like those in the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana in the Dominican Republic, Cross Catholic Outreach sends shipments of Vitafood — a specially formulated meal pack designed to meet the needs of the malnourished — to address the immediate nutritional needs of vulnerable communities. Each meal costs an average of just 15 cents. Supporting this campaign can ensure that the vulnerable do not go to bed hungry.

In the Dominican Republic, recent numbers show that 21% of Dominicans live below the national poverty line. There are 2.4 million people in the Dominican Republic who struggle with food insecurity, and 7.1% of children under age 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition. Children are dropping out of school to work for their next meal. Mothers are going hungry so



their sons and daughters don't starve. Young boys and girls are suffering from muscle weakness, fatigue and frequent illness, missing developmental milestones because there is never enough to eat.

"Cross Catholic Outreach chooses to work through local organizations because they know the area and are in the best position to provide the most efficient and impactful aid," said Sagarino. "We are incredibly grateful to these organizations for their assistance and look forward to working to serve the people of the Dominican Republic and beyond with this campaign."

Pursuing missions of mercy has long been a fundamental objective of the Catholic faith. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The Corporal Works of Mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God." (CCC 2447)

"Cross Catholic Outreach is working hard to make this a successful campaign because so many ministries and families are relying on our support. Our prayer is that thousands of Catholics will want to stand with us to bring the love of Jesus to these hungry children and families through the delivery of nourishing Vitafood meals," concluded Sagarino.

To learn more about Cross Catholic Outreach's Fight World Hunger campaign, please visit www.crosscatholic.org/feeding.

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Kevin Wandra (404-788-1276 or KWandra@CarmelCommunications.com) of Carmel Communications.

Headquartered in Florida, Cross Catholic Outreach is an official Catholic nonprofit 501(c)(3) relief and development organization that has been dedicated to serving the poorest of the poor in over 90 developing countries since its founding in 2001. To learn more about Cross Catholic Outreach, please visit CrossCatholic.org or call 800-914-2420.

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