



January 25, 2026

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat, Jan 24, 5:00PM (St. Henry) For the People
 Sat, Jan 24, 7:00PM (Holy Cross) † Jim Melcher
 Sun, Jan 25, 8:00AM (St. Henry) † Merle Thompson
 Sun, Jan 25, 8:30AM (Sacred Heart) † Marion & † David Jaroszewski
 Sun, Jan 25, 10:00AM (St. Henry) † Susan Richard
 Sun, Jan 25, 10:30AM (St. Lawrence) † Mary Klein
 Tue, Jan 27, 8:45AM (St. Henry) † Jack & Odilia Riestenberg
 Tue, Jan 27, 7:00PM (Sacred Heart) † Josh Hanson
 Wed, Jan 28, 8:30AM (St. Lawrence) † John Werner
 Wed, Jan 28, 5:15PM (Holy Cross) † Mike Minten
 Thu, Jan 29, 8:30AM (Sacred Heart) Living & Deceased Christian Mothers
 Thu, Jan 29, 8:45AM (St. Henry) † Dana Andrews
 Fri, Jan 30, 8:30AM (St. Lawrence) † Lowell Siebels
 Fri, Jan 30, 10:00AM (Perham Living) Special Intention - Christine Scheidecker
 Sat, Jan 31, 5:00PM (St. Henry) † Dave Stigman
 Sat, Jan 31, 7:00PM (Holy Cross) † Renee Doll
 Sun, Feb 1, 8:00AM (St. Henry) For the People
 Sun, Feb 1, 8:30AM (Sacred Heart) † Gordon Dykhoff
 Sun, Feb 1, 10:00AM (St. Henry) † Renee Doll
 Sun, Feb 1, 10:30AM (St. Lawrence) † Steve Doll



The 2025 contribution statements are in your mailboxes at all Northern Cross ACC parishes. Please pick them up as soon as possible. Thank you.

Financial Blessing for January 17th

Adult.....	1,335.00	Plate.....	157.00
Youth.....	10.00	Votives.....	28.51
Solemnity of Mary.....	10.00		

Total.....1,540.51

Thank you for remembering Holy Cross Church with your Stewardship throughout the year.

Financial Blessing for January 18th

Adult.....	1,170.00	Plate.....	254.00
Youth.....	27.25	Elec. Transfers.....	195.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	35.00	Christmas.....	145.00

Total.....1,826.25

Thank you for remembering Sacred Heart Church with your Stewardship throughout the year.

Financial Blessing for January 17th & 18th

Adult.....	4,517.00	Plate.....	1,424.00
Children's Basket.....	80.00	Elec. Transfers....	4,868.00
Other.....	93.00		

Total.....10,982.00

Thank you for remembering St. Henry Church with your Stewardship throughout the year.

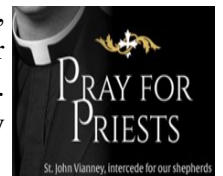
Financial Blessing for January 18th

Adult.....	1,095.00	Youth.....	27.00
Elec. Transfers.....	750.00	Plate.....	298.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	155.00		

Total.....2,325.00

Thank you for remembering St. Lawrence Church with your Stewardship throughout the year.

The SERRA Club has chosen Tuesday, January 27th as a day of special prayer for Fr. Omar Guanchez. Please remember Fr. Omar in your prayers on that day and pray for all priests and deacons every day.



"The name of Jesus is like honey in the mouth, music in the ear, and a cry of joy in the heart." ~St. Teresa of Calcutta

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Tuesday Noon

ST. LAWRENCE UPCOMING EVENTS

ST. LAWRENCE



BLACKSTONE GRILL RAFFLE!
\$5 per chance or 3 chances for \$10
You could win this Blackstone grill along with all its contents. The raffle is sponsored by St. Lawrence Christian Women with all proceeds going toward the 2026 St. Lawrence Festival.

Chances will be on sale after Mass, in the parish office, or contact Marlene Boedigheimer at 218-457-1588. Drawing will be on February 15th.

Super Bowl Party

The St. Lawrence Saints Relay for Life Team will be hosting their 16th annual Super Bowl Party at the home of Albert & Lisa Werner on Sunday Feb 8th at 4:30pm. \$20 will get you a square on the board. Another \$10 will get you in for a great evening of food, fun, and friendship. All are invited. Contact Ruth (218-731-1426) or Kayla (218-371-8237) for details.



The Northern Cross ACC Parishes wish to extend deepest sympathy to family and friends of
Cecile Frances Olson

*who passed away recently.
May Cecile know eternal peace
and joy in heaven and may God grant
comfort to her family and friends.*

Children's Collections: The January Children's Collections will be designated to the Tom and Geetha Chitta- Foundation for Children in Need. Thousands of children are assisted through schools in **India**-children who are orphaned due to HIV/AIDS; trafficking;...Geetha is also a doctor and she does facial reconstruction surgeries for cleft palates and such. Amazing missionaries!



Cemetery News Rick Guck is the sexton of St Lawrence Cemetery. Please, contact Rick (218-849-5488) or the parish office (218-346-7729) with any questions regarding cemetery plots.

Wed., January 28: All Grades; 6:30-7:30PM

Wed., February 4: All Grades; 6:30-7:30PM; Adoration

Wed., February 11: All Grades; 6:30-7:30PM

Stephanie VonRuden-Faith Formation Director
218-298-1050 or steph@ncacc.net

Honoring Marriage Day will be held on May 2nd, 2026 at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Sartell, MN, for all married couples. Couples celebrating 25, 40, 50, 60, and 60 plus years of marriage in 2026 will receive special recognition. Please let your parish office know if you are celebrating these anniversary years no later than January 31, so we can send the information to the diocese.

A great New Year resolution is to **TAKE** time for yourself. Take time now and register for a **Lenten Retreat**. The upcoming Lenten Retreat **"Praying for the Prodigal"** will be held Saturday, March 14, 2026, at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Morris, MN and includes speakers, Jason Prigge and Roxane Salonen, the Chaplet to St. Monica, Mass, and of course, lunch. Fee is \$25 by March 2 or \$30 at the door. Feel free to invite your spouse and friends.

Diocesan Festival of Families on February 22: Are you looking for some mid-winter family fun? Join us at St. Francis Xavier in Sartell from 9:00AM-3:00PM for a day of fun celebrating our Catholic faith. Cost is only \$25 per family, and will include a free carnival, family activities, lunch, age-appropriate activities, and Mass with Bishop Neary. Register at: <https://stcdio.org/event/2026-festival-of-families/>

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

When school is cancelled due to weather, there will be no Masses, no Adoration, and offices will be closed at all the NCACC parishes. If school is two hours late, Adoration will begin at noon and all morning Masses will be cancelled, but evening Masses may take place, if weather permits. For any other weather related announcements refer to My parish app or the NCACC Facebook page.

Pastor:	Fr. Omar Guanchez, E-mail: fatheromar@ncacc.net	Em: 218-346-4240 *Press 7
Parochial Vicar:	Fr. Nathaniel Daubner, E-mail: fathernathaniel@ncacc.net	Phone: 218-758-2888 (landline)
Deacons:	Deacon Richard Quistorff; deaconrichard@ncacc.net	Phone: 720-688-1015
	Deacon Randy Altstadt; deaconrandy@ncacc.net	Phone: 218-457-0925
Business Manager:	Ann Koll; ann@ncacc.net	Phone: 218-346-4240



St. Lawrence Catholic Church of Rush Lake

46404 County Highway 14

Perham, MN 56573

Phone: (218) 346-7729 Fax: (218) 346-5946

Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00AM-Noon

Email: sandi@ncacc.net

Parish Website: sacredheartstlawrencecatholicchurches.com



SACRED HEART UPCOMING EVENTS



Sacred Heart Christian Mothers Meeting:
Tuesday, January 27th
after the 7:00PM Mass.
New members are always welcome!

Beginning Experience, a non-profit Christian Support Group for Divorced, Widowed or Separated people, begins a 10 Week Session "COPING WITH LIFE ALONE" Monday, March 9, 2026 in Fergus Falls. This group is not a dating club, we are here to help others that have suffered a loss. All facilitators are volunteers who have experienced a divorce, been widowed or are separated from their partner. Call 218-560-1686 to sign up and for more information. (If there's no answer leave your name and phone number and we will call you back).



Plan with Faith, Live with Mercy
 Bishop Neary is inviting all parishioners to take part in a new diocesan initiative to help Catholics prepare for the future with confidence and care. Through a partnership with MyCatholicWill.com, the Diocese of Saint Cloud is offering free access to a trusted online platform where you can:

- Create a Last Will and Testament
- Plan a funeral rooted in Catholic tradition
- Consider a bequest to your parish or diocesan ministries

This is a simple and meaningful way to care for your loved ones and live out our call to stewardship. For more information, visit <https://mycatholicwill.com/stedio>

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Contact the Parish Offices

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY: Diocesan Policy requires that the Pastor be contacted at least 6 months before the anticipated date of marriage to allow time for premarital inventory, instructions and planning.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: ½ Hour before Weekend Masses at Sacred Heart, St. Lawrence and Holy Cross; Third Saturday from 6:00PM– 7:00PM at Holy Cross. Tuesday & Thursday, 8:15AM-8:45AM; Saturday, 4:00PM—4:45PM (Before 5:00PM Mass) at St. Henry

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: Contact the Parish Offices

Trustees: Brenda Aschnewitz & Jan Januszewski (Sacred Heart); Jack Werner & Andy Klinnert (St. Lawrence); Mark Halbakken & Lisa Hemmelgarn (St. Henry); Dawn Swanz & Jason Schik (Holy Cross)

Northern Cross Area Catholic Community Pastoral Council Members: Chelsey Hendrickx, Dawn Swanz, Dan Schik (Holy Cross); Brenda Aschnewitz, Mark Riestenberg, Kenny Moenkendick (Sacred Heart) Gina Cavanagh, Ken Guck, Jason Smith (St. Henry); Sandi Carrlson, Jack Werner, Caleb Carrlson (St. Lawrence)



Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Dent
36963 State Highway 108
Dent, MN 56528
Phone: (218) 758-2700
Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 9:00AM-1:00PM
Email: sandi@ncacc.net
Parish Website: sacredheartstlawrencecatholicchurches.com



FAITH Formation

SACRED HEART

Wed., January 28: 1-11; 7:00PM; 11th grade and parents Confirmation Learning Centers
Wed., February 4: 1-11; 7:00PM; Color Rosary at 8:00PM
Wed., February 11: 1-11; 7:00PM; 2nd Grade Reconciliation Learning Centers

Diane Sazama-Faith Formation Director
218-849-7520 or email woolyacres@arvig.net

Community Outreach Ministry is in need of queen beds in good condition, small couch, dressers, kitchen table & chairs for families in our area. Please call Cindy Olson at 218-849-8658 if you have these items.



Upcoming Women's Retreat: Women of Valor

When: January 30 - February 1, 2026

Where: Sisters of St. Francis Retreat & Conference Center

Hankinson, ND

Cost: \$300 Includes accommodations and meals

To Register visit www.ecclesiadomestica.net or email ecclesiaretreats@ecclesiadomestica.net

Cemetery News

Tim Stoll (218-841-4251) and John Kratzke (218-758-2275) (Sacred Heart) and Mark Riestenberg (218-731-2867) (St. Joseph) are the sextons of Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Cemeteries. Please, contact them or the parish office (218-758-2700) with any questions regarding cemetery plots.

Congratulations to our Calendar Raffle winners this week. 1-21-26-Elsie Schultz-\$50 and 1-23-26-Jacob and Sally Rux-\$100



Fun Fair 2026

We will be having our Fun Fair at the school on Sunday, March 15 from 11-2:30. We are in need of donations for our raffle, auctions, and to offset expenses. If you are able to help, please let us know by contacting Jason at 218-346-6190 or sthenryschool@arvig.net. You can also just stop by the school as well. All raffle prizes will need to be known by the end of January 26th so we can print the tickets. Thanks for your assistance, and we hope to see you at the Fun Fair on March 15.

Jason Smith, Principal
218-346-6190 or sthenryschool@arvig.net

Catholic Schools Week 2026 will be celebrated from January 25th to January 31st. The theme for this year's celebration is **"Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community"**. This theme is a powerful reminder that Catholic schools have an irreplaceable role in the Church's evangelizing mission by focusing on the formation of the whole person—body, mind, and spirit. The fact that all members of a Catholic school community share the Christian vision of faith that Christ is the foundation of Catholic education is what unites the school as a faith-filled community. Schools across the nation will observe this tradition with various events, including Mass and assemblies.



Requirements for having your first child baptized are: registration at a parish and attendance of a pre-baptism class. This class is normally offered on the 3rd Saturday of each month. The next class will be offered on **Saturday, February 21st** at 9:00AM in St. Henry's conference room. If you want your child baptized but have not yet attended the required class, please call the parish office at 218-346-4240. Pre-registration is required.

Education Contest

The 2025-2026 National Catholic Daughters Education Contest themes this year are: The Least of These; Matthew 25:40 or The Least of These; Lifting Others Up. Youth grades 4-12 are invited to submit an entry. Local Court St. Rita #409 is hosting the contest. Forms will be available at each parish or by calling Leanne Stoll, 758-3050. The deadline is February 1st. Cash awards are given for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place.



Wed., January 28:

All Grades; 6:30-7:30PM

Wed., February 4:

All Grades; 6:30-7:30PM

Wed., February 11:

No Class

Michelle Sazama, DRE
218-849-9660 or michelle@ncacc.net



We celebrate with the St. Henry's youth who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this past weekend.

Please keep these children in your prayers as they now begin their final preparation to receive First Holy Communion this spring. May they always know the peace of God's forgiveness and the joy of His presence.

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." — *Matthew 19:14*



We are looking for help prepping meals for our youth night and are in need of a substitute teacher for the remainder of this year for our 4-6th grade class. Please email michelle@ncacc.net or text her at 218-849-9660 if you are interested in helping. Thank you!



Steubenville Youth Conference 2026 registration is OPEN for students currently in **8th –12th Grade!** Join us in Rochester, MN, July 12th–14th. **Spaces are limited.** Register via the **Northern Cross Youth Group Facebook page** or contact Michelle (michelle@ncacc.net). Watch the bulletin and your email for meeting dates and time. To financially support our students (tax-deductible), drop off donations marked "Steubenville Youth Conference" at any parish office or collection basket. Thank you for all the support you give to the Youth in our Parishes!

Text App to 55321
to download our parish app!
Search for "Northern Cross Area Catholic Community"



Cemetery News

Mike Johnson (St. Stan) (218) 849-0501 and Ron Berns (St. Henry) (218) 298-0545 are the sextons of St. Stan and St. Henry Cemeteries. Please contact them with any questions regarding cemetery plots.

St. Henry's Catholic Church of Perham
234 2nd Ave SW
Perham, MN 56573
Phone: (218) 346-4240
Email: chelsey@ncacc.net

HOLY CROSS NEWS

Adoration is held on the third Saturday of the month at 6:00PM.

2026 Contribution envelopes are in your mailboxes.

Holy Cross Fish Fries will be February 20th & 27th. Sign up sheets are out if you are able to help.

Usher sign up sheet for 2026 is on the table in the entry. Sign up as a family, group, etc.

Year end reports for 2025 are in your mailboxes.

Whist at St. John's (Corliss) Tuesday at 1:00PM.

Cards will be played every Thursday at 1:00PM.



Faith Formation Schedule

Wed., Jan 28: Class 4:15-5:15PM; Evening Class 6:40-7:40PM

Wed., Feb 4: Class 4:15-5:15PM

Wed., Feb 11: Class 4:15-5:15PM

Faith
FORMATION

Cemetery News Sexton for Holy Cross cemetery is Edgar Hendrickx who can be contacted at 298-2434 or 385-3850.



2025 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Hearts of Mercy - Bishop's Annual Appeal: The 2026 Appeal launches soon.

· **Announcement Weekend is February 7 - 8:** You will receive bulletin inserts highlighting diocesan ministries and be asked to consider a gift to support these ministries on Commitment Weekend.

· **Commitment Weekend is February 14 - 15:** This is your opportunity to support diocesan ministries with a 2026 gift to the appeal. You may bring the envelope you receive in the mail or use a response envelope that will be provided at Mass. Both will be gratefully received in the offertory.

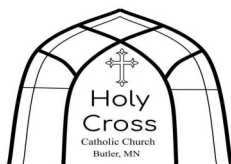
OFFICE HOURS: (HOLY CROSS): Call Faye Hendrickx:

(218) 385-3850

(SACRED HEART): Monday & Thursday : From 9:00 AM-1:00PM, (218) 758-2700

(ST.LAWRENCE): Tuesday & Wednesday: From 9:00 AM-12 Noon, (218) 346-7729

(ST. HENRY): Monday-Friday: From 8:30 AM—1:00PM, (218) 346-4240



Holy Cross Catholic Church of Butler
57189 Co. Hwy 62 New York Mills, MN
Phone (218) 385-2201 or (218) 385-3850
Email: faye@ncacc.net

Parish Website: <https://www.parishfaith.com/holy-cross---butler>



Please pray for those in need of healing in our parishes: Joyce (Huebsch) Bauer, Kathi Schmitz, Keith Friedsam, Dave Hammers, Joe Berns, Sue Kalinoski

All military personnel, especially: Derick Burr, Greg Hirschey, Sandra Silbernagel, Nicholas Melz, Miguel Martinez, Noah

Zeleny, Tyler Van Watermulen, Andrew Schlosser

Always remember in prayer our leaders in faith, especially: Pope Leo XIV, Bishop Patrick Neary, Bishop Emeritus Donald Kettler, Dcn Randy Altstadt, Dcn Richard Quistorff, Fr. Omar Guanchez, and Fr. Nathaniel Daubner.

REBOOT
A LIFE-CHANGING EVENT

REBOOT event with Chris Stefanik will be held at the Wadena Memorial Auditorium on Wednesday,

February 11th, 2026. Chris is an incredibly dynamic and energetic speaker with a beautiful message of joy! We invite you to join us for this life-changing event! Tickets are on sale now and can be found by scanning the QR code or by visiting



[HTTPS://BUYTICKETS.AT/REALLIFECATHOLIC/1765324.](https://buytickets.at/reallifecatholic/1765324)

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for January For Prayer with the Word of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

New School Capital Campaign Update

Complete Project	\$8,100,000.00
Pledged	\$8,345,692.00
Pledges to be Received	\$373,736.00
Received	\$7,971,956.00
Monies Received 01-19	\$250.00
Households Contributing	350

Readings for the Week

Monday	2 Tm 1:1-8	Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday	2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19	Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday	2 Sm 7:4-17	Mk 4:1-20
Thursday	2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29	Mk 4:21-25
Friday	2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17	Mk 4:26-34
Saturday	2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17	Mk 4:35-41
Sunday	Zep 2:3; 3:12-13	1 Cor 1:26-31
	Mt 5:1-12a	

Please let the advertisers know you saw their ad in the bulletin.

 Schoeneberger FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICE 100 Jake Street, Perham, MN (218) 346-5175 www.SchoenebergerFH.com	ALL CREATURES VETERINARY HOSPITAL 905 Jenny Ave, Perham, MN 56573 218-346-PETS (7387) Dr. Raeanna Tisdell-Covington, DVM Dr. Ciarrin Sailer, DVM Dr. Darl Enga, DVM Dr. Lani Vincent, DVM  allcreaturesperham.com		 KIT MASTERS FAN CLUTCH EXPERTS
 Swan Machine EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS WITH HIGHER QUALITY PRODUCTS AND SERVICE	 Step UP THRIFT BOUTIQUE 117 East Main Street Vergas, MN 56587 218-849-2309	 Perham Dairy Queen 802 - 3rd Ave SE 218-346-4070 Marc & Mike Winjum U.S. Pat. Off. Am.D.Q. Corp. Copyright, 1989 Am. D.G.	 SCHMITZ MOTOR COMPANY, INC. Perham, MN 218-346-3900 OWNERS: GREG, TONY, JONNIE, COLE & RYAN "ROO" SCHMITZ
 Ruthe Excavating EXCAVATING • SEPTIC SYSTEMS • SNOW REMOVAL • DEMOLITION CLEARING & GRADING • LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED • MATERIAL HAULING 218-346-4688 Cell: 218-298-1477	 DEAN'S Appliance SERVICE 218-346-6200 Over 42 years of Service	 CURTISSEIFERT CONSTRUCTION, LLC LIC# BC734124 3D RENDERING AVAILABLE! CALL US ABOUT YOUR UPCOMING PROJECT 218-298-0676	 RainSoft Solving local water problems since 1984. Lake Country RainSoft 231 Main St West, Ottertail, MN 56571 218-367-7873 * 1-800-450-1212
 kln Family Brands  TUFFY'S PET FOODS, INC. From our family to yours.	Catholic United Financial Becky King Rep since 2005 (218) 841-4600 BKing@catholicunited.org	 Knights of Columbus Perham Area Council 1773 Join the Knights at kofc.org/joinus	St. Henry's Preschool to 6th Grade Area School 218-346-6190
CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS COURT ST. RITA PERHAM, MN Serving the community for 105 years To Join, CONTACT REGENT LEANNE STOLL AT 218-758-3050	FLORENCE HAMMERS RENTAL PROPERTIES Perham, MN 218-346-6770	★ FIVE STAR STORAGE East Industrial Park, Perham Secure Location, Rodent Deterrent Call for your inside or secure outside storage needs. 218-346-7925	 OVERLAND INSURANCE AGENCY 255 3rd Ave SE Perham, MN 56573 218-346-6250 www.overlandinsurance.com
 LAKES CAFE 5:30 am - 3 pm (Mon-Sat) 8 am - 2 pm (Sun) 136 W. Main St Perham (218) 346-5920	 central market <i>fresh place!</i> Open 24 hours a day 7 days a week Keystone Inc. 211 Market Drive Perham, MN 56573 Phone: 218-346-6750 Fax: 218-346-6752 thefreshplace.com	 HAMMERS CONSTRUCTION www.hci-mn.com 218-346-2195	ROHDE INSURANCE SERVICES Writing all lines of insurance.   WMIM WESTERN MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF MINNESOTA 218-739-3295 Mickey Rohde, Dianne Rohde-Szarke & staff
ESSER Plumbing & Heating 218.346.3530 218.346.2138 EsserPlumbingandHeating.com	BenHolzerUnlimited WATER Water Treatments Reverse Osmosis Bottled Water Softener Salt Quality & Service at an affordable price! www.BenHolzerUnlimited.com Call Adam or Char at 218-346-6445		



Stewardship as a Way of Life:

"He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Him."

Matthew 4:22

Just as Jesus called the first apostles, He calls each of us to follow Him, too. Not everyone is called to leave their business or family behind, but we are expected to put God first in everything. In gratitude to God, we should give our first and best of everything to Him: our time in daily prayer, our talent in participating in one of our parish ministries and our treasure to support the financial needs of our parish mission.





Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Saint Cloud
214 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH
P.O. BOX 1248
ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA 56302-1248
TELEPHONE (320) 251-2340

January 12, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the people of Venezuela, particularly those lacking basic human needs and the most vulnerable. I do so on behalf of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Caritas Venezuela.

For years, CRS has partnered with Caritas Venezuela to provide a lifeline of support to families across the country. Thanks to strong relationships with the local Church, Caritas Venezuela has a permanent presence in communities and can work in close collaboration with parish priests, lay leaders, health facilities, schools and local organizations. At this critical time, the lifesaving efforts of CRS and Caritas Venezuela are needed more than ever.

I reach out to you also prompted by our special diocesan connections with CRS and the people of Venezuela. I was honored this past November to be selected as chairman of CRS' board of directors, thus bringing the crisis in Venezuela directly to my attention. Then, as most of you know, our ties with our Venezuelan sisters and brothers have been long and deep.

For 60 years, our relationship with the Diocese of Maracay created countless bonds among our priests, religious, lay missionaries and thousands of our faithful, which continue to this day. Given the urgency of the current reality in Venezuela, I am inviting all our parishes, schools and Catholic institutions to select a time and an opportunity to contribute in direct support of CRS and Caritas Venezuela.

While recognizing the complex political relationships involved in this current crisis, let me assure you that our Church is a vital link connecting our Christian love and charity with those in crisis through no fault of their own.

Here are a few examples: CRS reports that 8 million need direct humanitarian assistance and more than 7.9 million have been forced to flee their homes. Additionally, drastic funding cuts in U.S. government assistance in 2025 resulted in 2.6 million people not receiving critical assistance as originally planned. Families who were already stretched to the limit now face even greater hardship. They need support urgently — and the Church is there.

Please send contributions and special collections to:
St. Cloud Mission Office
CRS/Caritas Venezuela
11 – 8th Ave S
St Cloud MN 56301

Yours in Christ,

+ *Patrick M. Neary, C.S.C.*

+Patrick M. Neary, C.S.C.
Bishop, Diocese of Saint Cloud

May the grace and the peace of God be with you all!

I am deeply touched by the Bishop Neary's decision to support the people of Venezuela at this time of hopeful transitions. It is true, millions of Venezuelans have endured a heavy cross in the last years due to hyperinflation, violence and an oppressive regime. Life should not be that hard, but bad leaders can make it hard for the people they are supposed to serve. Anyhow, thank you for your prayers and support that will help many people in need down there.

Fr Omar