

# Archdiocese of Freetown

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### **Congratulatory Message to CRS on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Foundation**

On behalf of the Priests, the Men and women Religious, the Catholic Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese of Freetown, and in my own name, I congratulate the President and Staff of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of CRS, and I pray that the organization may grow from strength to strength as it continues to serve our needy brothers and sisters in different parts of the world.

During my primary school days in the 1960s in my hometown called Kainkordu, in Kono District in the eastern province of Sierra Leone, CRS was a household name, particularly because of its school-feeding programme. The programme kept many of us in school as we always looked forward to the sumptuous lunch of bulgur and sometimes cornmeal, prepared with fish and soybean oil three times a week. For many of us at the time, that was the only programme for which we knew CRS. It was only later that we realized that the organization had many other programmes.

As CRS celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation, I want to thank the organization for the support it gave to thousands, if not millions, of kids like me, through its school-feeding programme, and for other programmes in favour of education, health care, and community development. I should also thank the American Catholics and other generous donors who have been providing the resources to enable CRS to bring relief and to respond to the developmental needs of people around the world, especially in the developing nations.

I would like to conclude by assuring the President and Staff of CRS of my continuous support and collaboration as the Archbishop of Freetown and that of Caritas Freetown, our diocesan charity.

*Most Rev. Edward Tamba Charles  
Archbishop of Freetown,*