



# AMECEA

## Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa

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Your Ref:

Our Ref:

1<sup>st</sup> October 2018

Mr. Sean CALLAHAN  
President and CEO  
The Catholic Relief Services  
228 West Lexington Str. Baltimore, MD 21201 – 3443  
USA.

Dear Mr. Callahan,

**RE: CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF DIAMOND  
JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES.**

Greetings from AMECEA Secretariat.

It is gratifying to note that the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is celebrating seventy-five years since its inception. Indeed, the CRS is the true embodiment of the mission of the Church. As the fathers of *Vatican II Council* proclaimed, “the Church is sent to the nations because it is the sacrament of Christ’s mission of salvation and unity, and Christ is the light of the nations” (cf. *LG 1*). This is evidenced in the initiatives which are supported by the CRS in all the ecclesiastical jurisdictions in AMECEA Countries and across the Globe.

It’s a wonderful achievement! We in the Continent of Africa share your happiness in this special occasion since CRS mandate is the development and relief arm (Caritas) of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). In their mission for holistic evangelization, the US Bishops Conference has on one hand established CRS for relief and development and on the other hand the Solidarity Fund in Favour of Africa which is the Pastoral Solidarity with Africa, a spirit concretely developed over the years. These two arms complement each other when they find home in the human person.

On behalf of Rt. Rev. Charles Kasonde, Bishop of the diocese of Solwezi, Zambia and Chairman of AMECEA, we congratulate and thank the CRS leadership in its various levels and the management on this auspicious occasion. We also avail ourselves this opportunity to congratulate all those who have given themselves to the service of CRS for the last seventy-five

years. Your spirit, drive and hard work made your organization what it is today. Jubilee celebrations is always a milestone to celebrate the achievements and the opportunity to set new goals.

**Honorary Patrons:** H.E. Emmanuel Cardinal WAMALA (Uganda); Polycarp Cardinal PENGU (Tanzania); Gabriel Cardinal Zubeir WAKO (Sudan); John Cardinal NJUE (Kenya);

**Executive Board:** Most Rev. BERHANEYESUS, D. Souraphiel, Chairman (Ethiopia); Rt. Rev. Kidane YEBIO (Eritrea); Abune Tesfaselassie MEDHIN (Ethiopia); Rt. Rev. Philip ANYOLO (Kenya); Most Rev. Thomas MSUSA (Malawi); Rt. Rev. Michael DIDI (Sudan/South Sudan); Rt. Rev. Rogatus KIMARYO (Tanzania); Rt. Rev. Anthony ZZIWA (Uganda); Rt. Rev. Charles KASONDE (Zambia); Very Rev. Fr. Ferdinand LUGONZO, Secretary General (Kenya)

We at AMECEA testify that indeed the Catholic Relief Services in Regional Office in Nairobi is a robust partner over the years as we have worked together. It is one of the vehicles through which the Church in AMECEA Countries, have driven the inner necessity catholicity and strives ever to serving all the people. Guided by the *Principles of Catholic Social Teaching*, we are aware CRS works in over 100 countries to assist people of all backgrounds, working side by side with others so they can lift themselves out of poverty, assisting during emergencies and enabling people to build the resiliency they need to stand on their own.

Our wish and prayer is that this Diamond Jubilee celebrations become an occasion for all stakeholders to rededicate themselves towards realizing a closer communion among the faithful and all people of good will.

In conclusion we express our gratitude for the support that AMECEA Secretariat and the region have received from CRS in the last seventy-five years in various projects and initiatives and look forward to a closer and more solid collaboration.

Once more we say thank you and may Almighty God bless the Catholic Relief Services and the work you discharge.

Assuring you of my prayerful communion, I remain,



**Very Rev. Fr. Anthony MAKUNDE**  
**SECRETARY GENERAL**



**Cc: Rt. Rev. Charles KASONDE - Chairman, AMECEA**