



2010
Annual Report

*Renewing Hope,
Seeking Justice*



*Migration and Refugee Services
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

Vision Statement

Creating a world where immigrants, refugees, migrants, and people on the move are treated with dignity, respect, welcome and belonging.



Cover Art from JFI:

Mina; 14 -18, Iraqi refugee: "Liberated Dreams"

Hope was depressed by darkness, slavery and sectarianism without any compassion. After a long time of waiting, all my dreams were freed from the shackles and chains holding them. They moved to a new world without limits, where they cannot be confined. I am now free and brimming with energy and ambition.



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to provide you with a copy of the 2010 annual report of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS), which highlights the critical work and many successful initiatives that USCCB/MRS has undertaken during the past year.

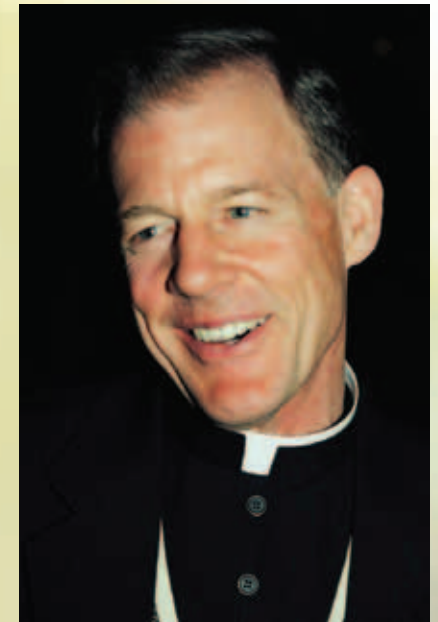
Pope Benedict XVI reminded us in his most recent encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate*, that every “migrant is a human person who, as such, possesses fundamental, inalienable rights that must be respected by everyone and in every circumstance.” Sadly, this moral mandate is all too often not recognized in practice. Around the world today millions of refugees are

consigned to live in refugee camps, undocumented migrants are forced to survive by living in the shadows of society, children are separated from their families, and victims of human trafficking are subjected to lives of sexual and labor slavery.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has for decades made the protection of the inalienable rights of migrants spoken of by Pope Benedict a priority. In 2010 the bishops continued this legacy by voicing strong support for the passage of comprehensive immigration reform, advocating for protection and resettlement services for refugees and other vulnerable migrant populations, and by helping to provide services for survivors of human trafficking.

It has been a pleasure these past three years to lead the bishops in this effort while I served as the Committee on Migration chairman. In particular I would like to commend my brother bishops, the staff of Migration and Refugee Services, and everyone affiliated with diocesan agencies, all of whom are deeply committed to the Church’s mission to help migrants and their families. I would like to welcome Archbishop José Gomez of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, who will be acting as the new chairman for our committee starting in 2011. I wish him well as he leads the bishops’ efforts to address the needs of immigrants, refugees, victims and survivors of human trafficking, and other people on the move.

My sincere thanks goes out to all who work on behalf of migrants and who, through their work, seek to provide them with the opportunities and protections that will enable them to live a fuller and more enriched life.



Sincerely Yours in the Lord,
Most Reverend John C. Wester
Bishop of Salt Lake City
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Migration

Resettlement Services



Largest Refugee Populations Resettled by MRS in 2010

Cuba	1,489
Somalia	1,635
Bhutan	3,108
Burma	4,722
Iraq	5,893

MRS offers hope to some of the world's most vulnerable people – refugees who have fled their homes in fear for their lives because of religious, political and other forms of persecution. We carry out our mission to serve this vulnerable population through a long-standing partnership with a network of over 100 diocesan resettlement offices. As the largest non-governmental resettlement agency in the world, MRS has resettled more than one million refugees since 1975 and has, in recent years, typically helped to resettle more than one quarter of all refugees who come into the United States.

Refugee Resettlement Statistics 2010



In 2010, Migration Refugee Services

- Helped to resettle 20,307 refugees or 28% of all refugees resettled into the U.S. during this period. The largest refugee populations resettled into the United States in 2010 were from Iraq, Burma, Bhutan, and Somalia. Included in the 20,307 refugees are 547 Special Immigrant Visa Recipients. Special Immigrant Visas are granted to certain Iraqi and Afghan nationals and their family members who have been threatened because they have worked for or assisted the U.S. government.
- Held a series of four regional convenings across the United States to discuss issues related to refugee resettlement in difficult times and to develop strategies for improving programs. These gatherings provided an opportunity for MRS staff and over 200 diocesan executive and resettlement directors to share ideas and learn from each other on a variety of topics related to serving the most vulnerable.
- Made available \$500,000 in grant funding to 28 dioceses through the Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) Program. Supported entirely by MRS, the goal of POWR is to develop long-term, sustainable resettlement programs in the U.S. The grant funds programming to strengthen parish and community support to welcome and assist refugees at the diocesan level.

Special Program for Cubans and Haitians

MRS is also a well-recognized, historic leader in helping Cubans and Haitians who resettle in the United States under unique and complex immigration policies. The total number of clients served by the program in Fiscal Year 2010 was 10,131. The MRS Reception, Processing and Resettlement Unit, in partnership with the MRS Cuban/Haitian resettlement network, helped to resettle 1,127 clients, of which 639 cases were Family Reunifications and 488 were Free Cases. An additional 9,004 clients were provided orientation and referral services through the Parolee Orientation Program. Finally, the Unaccompanied Minors Program provided direct and indirect services to 21 minors, including 7 Haitian minors who were placed in foster care and 2 Cuban minors who were reunited with their families.



The earthquake in Haiti that occurred on January 12, 2010 caused a great deal of suffering among the Haitian people. In its aftermath, MRS took the lead in responding to the critical needs of those individuals the U.S. government paroled into the country for medical care. Two hundred and nineteen medical evacuees and their traveling family members have received services and assistance, such as family reunification, immigration assistance, case management, and enrollment into the Cuban and Haitian Program.



Special Programs

Children's Services

Children from around the world are assisted by Migration and Refugee Services/Children's Services

MRS served children from 26 different countries of origin in 2010. These children originated from countries as diverse as China and Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mexico, Iran, and Kenya. Through its work, MRS seeks to ensure that these children are placed in safe family environments through foster care or by way of reunification with family members, that will provide for their physical, psychological, and emotional well-being.

Refugee Foster Care Services

MRS/Children's Services provides residential care for unaccompanied children through a network of refugee foster care programs nation-wide. This network first began serving foreign born children in 1980, when its focus centered on serving separated children from Southeast Asia. In 2010, MRS helped to place and provide support for 244 children who were placed into foster care. This accounts for a nearly 24% increase in the number of children we provided foster care assistance to compared to 2009.

The particular services provided to children in foster care include indirect financial support through the provision of housing, food, clothing and other necessities, educational supports, and intensive case management. MRS also provides support to refugee foster care providers through technical assistance, national trainings and direct consultation.



One child placed by MRS/Children's Services is Eduardo*, who has been in foster care for over three years. Eduardo immigrated to the United States from Honduras when he was 16 years old. He never knew his father, and his mother sent him to live with his grandparents when he was two years old. This past year, Eduardo's application for a Special Immigrant Visa was approved and he now has legal permanent residency. He has graduated from high school and is a freshman at a university, planning to major in social work. At the refugee foster care program, Eduardo participated as a mentor for a new boy who was new to the program in order to provide support as he adjusted to life in foster care. His support was greatly appreciated by this newer foster care child, who saw him as a "big brother." As Eduardo moves forward in his educational and professional career, he will continue to give back to others.

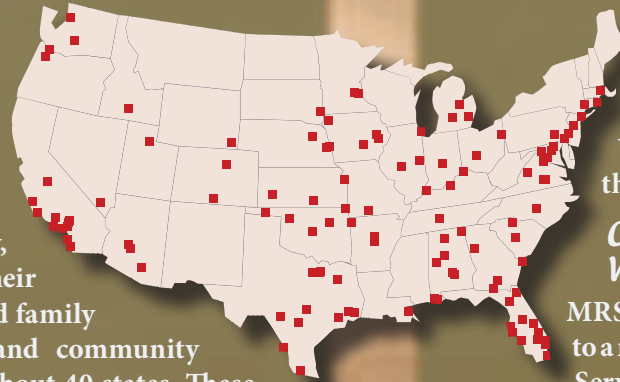
*Not his real name



Family Reunification Services

In addition to its foster care program, MRS serves undocumented children detained by the Federal Government and, through a network of 138 providers across the country, seeks to reunite these children with their families. MRS staff and the network provided family reunification services (home assessments and community based follow up services) in 120 cities throughout 40 states. These services assist in providing an alternative to costly detention for children as they navigate immigration proceedings and safely reunite with family. Today, we are the largest provider of family reunification services for unaccompanied children in immigration proceedings.

MRS provides a unique model of services which reaches anywhere in the United States. In 2010, family reunification services were provided from large cities to rural communities; including Los Angeles, Houston, Austin, Dallas/Ft Worth, the Washington, DC metro area, and Phoenix....but also throughout small towns and rural communities in Arkansas, Iowa, Washington State, North Carolina, Georgia, and rural Florida. We continually build our capacity to serve undocumented children and their families through outreach and training.



Sharing Good Practice on Child Migration Issues

MRS/Children's Services provides on-going consultation and technical assistance to a variety of entities and individuals on the emerging issues in child migration and program services for refugees and immigrant children and families. We are continually informing systems to assist with improving policy and practice in the area of children and migration. In 2010, MRS/Children's Services was invited to present at a national treatment foster care conference, federal government consultations, and national conferences on child welfare and unaccompanied children.

For example, MRS/Children's Services provided international webinars to child protection and resettlement staff in United Nations offices around the world to inform international professionals of the services that are available once children are resettled as refugees in the United States and educate them on considerations for the best interests of children and families.

Capacity Building Assistance- Refugee Women and Children in Malaysia

MRS/Children's Services provides capacity building expertise to a number of entities. For example, in 2010, MRS/Children's Services was called to assist in the implementation of a new protection program in Malaysia established by our partner agency, the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC). This initiative included the consultation and program start-up assistance to enable locally based groups in Malaysia to continue a program combating gender-based violence among urban refugees.



Human Trafficking



A Survivor's Story

Joseph*, a young man came to the U.S. legally to work on a farm and earn money for his desperately poor family in Haiti. When he arrived, his documents were taken from him by his employer. He was held against his will and forced to work long hours in dangerous conditions with little food. Thankfully, Joseph was rescued by law enforcement and referred to MRS's Anti-Trafficking Services Program. Our program coordinated the care and services he needed to rebuild his life and reunite with his family. Today Joseph is living and working in the U.S., integrated into his community and building a future for himself and his family.

*Not his real name

Anti Trafficking Services Program

The US Department of State estimates that as many as 17,000 vulnerable men, women, and children are trafficked across our borders each year through human trafficking – a modern form of slavery. They are men, women, and children from around the globe desperate to escape natural disaster, political upheaval, economic destabilization, or other oppressive conditions. In the course of seeking freedom, these individuals are vulnerable to becoming trafficking victims through the lure of false promises of employment, education, and a better life that bears little resemblance to what they are ultimately forced to do.

For over a decade, MRS has been actively working to end human trafficking and protect those adults and children who have been exploited through trafficking.

In 2006, the Anti-Trafficking Services Program (ATSP) specifically began administering a federal program to provide intensive case management to foreign national victims of human trafficking identified in the U.S. and its territories. In 2010, through its network of 120 subcontracting agencies, ATSP was able to help 947 survivors of human trafficking and their family members, a 10% increase from the previous year. These individuals came from 64 countries, with the largest number of survivors from India, Mexico, Thailand, Philippines, and Haiti. Survivors were trafficked on farms, in hotels and casinos, in private homes, in spas, and other industries for the purposes of forced labor and/or sex trafficking.

Increasing focus is centered on child victims of trafficking, a population that is uniquely vulnerable to victimization through trafficking. The program is building expertise in addressing special needs of children and adolescents who receive services through the program, to include those who may enter foster care through the MRS Safe Passages program.



Training and Technical Assistance

At the core of our federal program is support to those involved in identification and provision of services to trafficking survivors. While many agencies we work with are experienced in serving this population, many newly recruited service providers have little to no previous experience working with trafficking survivors. In 2010, ATSP provided over 570 hours of training and technical assistance focused on insuring subcontracted service providers are optimally effective and survivors received quality care. Training and technical assistance was provided to more than 4,200 recipients, including: subcontracting service providers, law enforcement, lawyers, government personnel, and others.

	Total	Male	Female	Adult	Minor	Sex	Labor	Both
Total Victims Enrolled	800	425	375	772	28	97	620	83
Percentages of Victims	100%	53%	47%	97%	3%	12%	78%	10%
Family Members	147	67	80	72	75	NA	NA	NA
Total Clients Served	947	492	455	844	103	97	620	83

Bridging Refugee Youth and Children’s Services

Bridging Refugee Youth and Children’s Services (BRYCS) is a MRS program with a ten-year track record of providing technical assistance to refugee resettlement groups and other organizations working with newly arrived children and families throughout the country. BRYCS’s services strengthen refugee families and increase access to effective support programs. Its web-based information clearinghouse and training resources promote the cultural competence of public service agencies that work with refugee children.

In 2010, BRYCS provided technical assistance to nearly 400 agencies across 42 states, provided 21 presentations and disseminated materials at 32 conferences, and produced nearly 90 articles, newsletters, bibliographies, or other written publications for service providers. For the first time, BRYCS conducted 3 live webinars for 800 participants. The BRYCS web site continues to be *the* place for information on refugee children and families, with nearly half a million resources downloaded in 2010. Service providers continue to report that BRYCS’ resources and training have helped increase their knowledge, improve their practice, and increase their coordination – ultimately, improving the lives of refugee children.



Migration Policy and Public Affairs

The MRS Office of Migration Policy and Public Affairs is tasked by the bishops to advocate on behalf of migrants and support the passage of migration-related legislation that is consistent with the moral vision of the Catholic Church. Throughout 2010 this office was actively engaged on a wide range of important initiatives. These include the following:

Doubling of Reception and Placement Grant

The Reception and Placement (R&P) program, administered by the US Department of State includes a one-time per capita grant for the initial weeks after refugee arrival. The grant had declined in real terms by more than 50% since its inception several decades ago. MRS advocated strongly with the State Department to significantly increase the initial grant, efforts which bore fruit when the grant was doubled, from \$900 to \$1,800, on January 1, 2010. This increase has enabled refugees and the agencies that serve them to adequately provide for refugees' basic needs during their initial weeks in the United States, helping facilitate their eventual integration into their new communities. MRS continues to work with individual agencies to assist in the management and dispersal of these funds.

Refugee Protection Act

On March 15, 2010, Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) introduced the Refugee Protection Act of 2010, legislation to strengthen the country's commitment to protecting refugees fleeing persecution or torture. MRS was central to the drafting of this bill and to the inclusion provisions increasing protections for asylum seekers, reforming the expedited removal process, revising the terrorism bars to admissibility, strengthening family unity, and increasing protections for refugees and asylees. Although this bill did not become law, it put forth a high standard for a Congressional commitment to refugee protection, and communicated the message that protecting refugees is an important priority for Congress. This bill is soon to be re-introduced in the 112th Congress, and MRS is working with members of Congress and other advocates to ensure its introduction and passage, and to protect key protections included in the bill.

Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act

MRS continued to monitor and influence the implementation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, which increased protections, improved prevention efforts, and improved services to trafficking victims and those at risk of being trafficked in the U.S. and abroad. While the government was, at times, slow to fully implement certain provisions of the law, MRS weighed in with government officials and members of Congress to ensure that trafficking victims, especially children, were being adequately protected per the dictates of the new law.



Temporary Protected Status for Haitians

Following the destructive earthquake that hit Haiti on January 12, 2010, the American Catholic bishops were on the forefront of advocating in support of the application of Temporary Protected Status for Haitians living in the United States. On January 15th, the Obama Administration granted this status, which allowed Haitians who entered the U.S. prior to January 12th the opportunity to live and work in the United States for eighteen months.

Justice for Immigrants Campaign

Working under the auspices of the MRS Migration Policy and Public Affairs Office, the Justice for Immigrants Campaign (JFI) seeks to educate American Catholics on topics related to immigration and Catholic Social Teaching, and advocates on behalf of comprehensive immigration reform.



In 2010, JFI:

- ≈ Held, in partnership with (PICO), a National Convening in Chicago on November 3-5, 2010. About 180 attendees, representing 68 dioceses and 33 states, attended. Beginning the day after the general election, participants were briefed on the new legislative landscape regarding immigration and were also given training on organizing, communications, Catholic social teaching on immigration, and combating local immigration enforcement initiatives.
- ≈ Launched a new website that provides a much more interactive and immersive experience. Plans are in place to develop a Spanish language version of the website in 2011. You can visit the new website here: (www.justiceforimmigrants.org).
- ≈ Initiated a postcard campaign and printed one million postcard sets – four times more than originally intended because of the high demand across the country – to push Congress to vote in favor of comprehensive immigration reform. Throughout the year, JFI supporters mailed or hand delivered hundreds of thousands of postcards to the Washington DC and local offices of federal lawmakers. An online version of the postcard was also created and is still live on the Justice for Immigrants homepage.
- ≈ Received a grant for \$115,000 from the USCCB Catholic Campaign for Human Development to assist in JFI's continued efforts to engage in grassroots organizing of dioceses and parishes across the country. JFI was also the beneficiary of \$85,000 from the USCCB Catholic Communication Campaign, some of which will go to training and equipping Catholic priests to speak on behalf JFI and in favor of comprehensive immigration reform.



National Migration Week 2010 January 3-9

Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice was the primary theme for the 2010 National Migration Week, held January 3-9. This theme expresses an important motivation for the Church as she works with immigrants, refugees, trafficked persons and other people on the move. Christians everywhere are called to reach out a helping hand to those who are suffering, alone and on the verge of despair. Likewise, we are obligated to work tirelessly against oppression and injustice everywhere, with the hope of helping to create conditions that will allow everyone to thrive.

Following the lead of Pope Benedict XVI, who focused on migrant children in his 2010 World Day of Migrants and Refugees message, the bishops decided to use this as a second theme in 2010. Children are an exceptionally vulnerable population that are easily taken advantage of, exploited and abused. This is particularly true when they are undocumented and unaccompanied in a foreign country and, all too often, with nobody to turn to for help.



Dina; 5-9, Iraqi refugee: "From Iraq to the U.S."

The yellow and brown house is my old house and the white house and orange door, that is my new house. I draw some trees in Iraq and leaves, and in Delaware I draw some flowers, one tree, and a river. I like my new home and I like my school and it is so big and I have a new friend. I am so happy because I have many friend and I want to live in peace.

MRS 2010 World Refugee Day Refugee Youth Poster Contest "My New Home"

In celebration of World Refugee Day, 2010, MRS sponsored a Refugee Youth Poster Contest in which refugee youth resettled by the MRS resettlement network had the opportunity to creatively express what resettlement in the United States has meant to them. Incorporating UNHCR's 2010 theme of a refugee's home, MRS invited youth ages 5-18 to submit posters and descriptions of their new homes.



Bawi; 10-13, Burmese refugee: "Old Home, New Home"

The first painting represents my old house and the second represents my new house. There are nice people in my old and new houses. I love both places very much. We are free and can go anywhere. They don't shoot us anymore.

Above far left:

Mina; 14-18, Iraqi refugee: "Liberated Dreams"

Hope was depressed by darkness, slavery and sectarianism without any compassion. After a long time of waiting, all my dreams were freed from the shackles and chains holding them. They moved to a new world without limits, where they cannot be confined. I am now free and brimming with energy and ambition.

The Displaced of Haiti: Long Term Challenges and Needed Solutions



In late July and early August of 2010 a delegation from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Migration and the Committee on International Justice and Peace visited the nations of Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and the Bahamas to examine the situation of Haitian migrants following the January 12, 2010 earthquake. Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami and Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, accompanied by representatives from the USCCB and Catholic Relief Services (CRS), led the 2010 trip.

The delegation discovered that in Haiti the recovery efforts remained slow with little of the debris left by the earthquake removed and little or no permanent reconstruction efforts underway. Tens of thousands of people were left homeless and continued to reside in tent cities that sprouted in and around Port-au-Prince. The effects of the earthquake were not contained to Haiti, but spilled over into the Dominican Republic. One of the delegation's primary concerns focused on the border, which is very porous, and concerns that children are being trafficked into the Dominican Republic to work in agriculture, beg on the streets, or perform domestic work. In the Bahamas, concerns were raised about the treatment of Haitian migrants who lived there. Many Haitians confronted systematic discrimination, which is reflected in the way in which they are treated by Bahamian authorities. The delegation commends the efforts of all those struggling to remedy an almost impossible situation and is particularly thankful to CRS which played the role of host and continues to perform life-saving work in difficult circumstances.



Financial Statement

Migration and Refugee Services secures grants and contracts from the U.S. government to carry out its critical work in support of vulnerable newcomers. It also receives vital funding from the annual Catholic Relief Services Collection held in parishes nationwide. These monies are used to meet the service needs of immigrants, refugees, migrants and other people seeking safety and freedom.

MRS is also grateful for USCCB and foundation grants and private contributions in support of our unique mission.

REVENUE

Government Grants and Contracts	\$ 69,137,127
CRS Collection	1,162,866
Collection Fees on Refugee Travel Loans	3,166,625
Investment Income	287,897
USCCB and Private Grants/Contributions	491,360
Other	24,812
Total Revenue	\$ 74,270,687

EXPENSES

Personnel	\$ 7,858,385
Operating Costs	5,395,696
Diocesan Programs & Direct Assistance to Refugees & Other Clients	59,396,654
MRS Grants and Donations	318,795
Total Expenses	\$ 72,969,530
Revenues in Excess of Expenses	\$ 1,301,157



These represent unaudited figures of the MRS financial statement. These financials are in the process of being audited by an independent accounting firm and upon completion will be made available on the USCCB web site at www.usccb.org/finance.



USCCB Committee On Migration

Chairman:

Most Reverend John Wester

Most Reverend Jose H. Gomez, Chair Elect

Membership:

His Eminence Edward Cardinal Egan

Most Reverend Michael Burbidge

Most Reverend Charles Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

Most Reverend Felipe de Jesus Estevez

Most Reverend Richard Garcia

Most Reverend John Manz

Most Reverend Jaime Soto

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His Eminence Theodore Cardinal McCarrick

His Eminence Sean Cardinal O'Malley

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Most Reverend Armando Ochoa

Most Reverend Thomas Wenski

Sister RayMonda DuVall

Robert Gilligan

Mr. Kenneth Hackett

Maria Odom

Sister Gaye L. Moorhead, RSM

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Johnny Young, MRS Executive Director

Kevin Appleby, MRS Director of Migration Policy and Public Affairs

Anastasia Brown, MRS Director of Resettlement Services

Beth Englander, MRS Director of Special Programs

List of Funding Partners:

America's Voice

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Catholic Communications Campaign

Ford Foundation*

Robert Woods Johnson Foundation

United States Department of Health and Human Services

United States Department of Homeland Security

United States Department of State

*money from the Ford Foundation was used to educate the public on the Church's teachings related to immigration.

Photos courtesy of:

≈ All photos courtesy of Catholic Relief Services with the exception of:

≈ Kay Chernush, for the US State Department, pages 6-7.

≈ MRS participants of the 2010 delegation trip, bottom right page 3 and all images on page 11.

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Cynthia S. Rouillard, Storm Graphic Arts





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