

NEWS RELEASE

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Former Catholic Relief Services CEO to Speak at Ecological Justice Conference

COLCHESTER-- A former head of Catholic Relief Services will be in Vermont in September to speak at the "Action for Ecological Justice: Celebrating a Year of Creation" conference, the signature event of the Diocese of Burlington's Year of Creation, a yearlong, statewide, intentional focus on embracing the message of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical letter, "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home."

Dr. Carolyn Woo, who from 2012-2016 was president and CEO of the U.S. Catholic Church's international humanitarian and development aid agency based in Baltimore, will present a personal look at the encyclical she helped Pope Francis present in Rome, at environmental degradation and its effect on the poor and at measures to minimize further environmental harm from carbon emissions and remediate damage already done.

The conference will take place Sept. 30 at St. Michael's College in Colchester and will be hosted by the Diocese of Burlington. Registration is \$35 per person and includes morning pastries, lunch and afternoon breakout sessions. To register or learn more please visit: Vermontcatholic.org/actionforecologicaljustice

With perspectives from scientists, politicians, activists, economists, professionals, academics and people of various faiths, the conference will offer the opportunity for dynamic conversations about the state of creation and how people can work together for a sustainable future.

CRS staff "works face to face every day with the effects of climate warming," Woo said. These include working with farmers whose livelihood is negatively impacted by erratic rainfall, which causes problems like drought on one extreme and soil erosion from deluges of rain on the other.

Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 by the Catholic bishops of the United States to serve World War II survivors in Europe. Since then, it has expanded to reach more than 100 million people in over 100 countries on five continents.

Its mission is to assist impoverished and disadvantaged people overseas, working in the spirit of Catholic social teaching to promote the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the human person. With that mission rooted in the Catholic faith, CRS operations serve people based solely on need, regardless of their race, religion or

ethnicity. In the United States, CRS engages Catholics to live their faith in solidarity with the poor and suffering people of the world.

The conference at St. Michael's College will be open to people of all faiths.

For more information, call Stephanie Clary at 802-846-5822. To learn more about the Year of Creation please visit: [http: vermontcatholic.org/yearofcreation/](http://vermontcatholic.org/yearofcreation/)

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