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Your Eminence/Excellency,

As I explained in my letter last week, Lifesite News, and subsequently the American Life League (ALL), launched a critique of Catholic Relief Services accusing CRS of violating Church teachings in our grant of \$5.3 million to CARE for programs providing food and water to people in need. Their statements claimed that the grant money is fungible.

I want you to know that we sent a counter statement indicating that these grants do NOT violate Church teachings, the funding is NOT fungible, and the project would not be undertaken by CARE or CRS without the funding. We also explained that the CRS board engaged Dr. John Haas of the National Catholic Bioethics Center last year to assess whether such grants are in compliance with the moral teachings of the Church. The conclusion was that the grants did not violate Church teachings. However, there would be a serious risk of scandal and measures should be taken to address this risk. These measures have been taken. We sought a retraction from Lifesite News, ALL, and other outlets that published a similar article.

Yesterday afternoon Lifesite News released an article claiming that Dr. Haas advised CRS not to provide grants to CARE. This is not true. In response, Dr. Haas approved the following statement.

***John Haas Says He Did Not Advise Catholic Relief Services Not To Fund CARE***

*Dr. John Haas of The National Catholic Bioethics has told CRS that a Lifesite News headline misrepresented his interaction with CRS. He did not advise CRS that it should not fund CARE but left the decision to the CRS board of directors, where it appropriately belongs according to Church teaching. In its report, The National Catholic Bioethics Center concluded the grants to CARE did not involve Catholic Relief Service in immoral activities or in immoral cooperation in illicit activities. The report indicated that there was a serious risk of theological scandal and urged that steps be taken to minimize this risk. The CRS board made the decision to award the grants and took steps to minimize the risk of misunderstanding.*

Additional information is available on the CRS [website](http://www.crs.org).

Even before these issues were raised last week, I had planned to send this letter informing you of a decision made by the CRS board of directors involving the American Life League.

Recently, our Board and staff learned that our primary vendor for printing services, AKA Printing and Mailing, is owned by the family of Judie Brown, President of ALL, and maintains a close affiliation with ALL. It was the unanimous decision of the Board that we should not renew CRS' largest printing contract with AKA. That contract ends as of September 30, 2012. This decision will substantially decrease the business received by AKA from CRS. However AKA is welcome to submit competitive bids for printing of materials for a few smaller mail programs. This is in keeping with CRS' long standing practice of diversifying its vendors through a competitive bidding process.

While the Board and I welcome all constructive questions about the work of CRS, we have strongly disagreed with the manner used by ALL in raising its concerns, including tactics used against the USCCB, its members, staff, and programs. Until last week, ALL had demonstrated a more respectful and collaborative approach toward CRS. However ALL had continued its divisive methodology against programs and staff of the USCCB, leading to the CRS board's decision at its June meeting.

I wanted to provide you with information about the Lifesite News' accusations to assure you that CRS is committed to following the teaching of the Church. I also want you to be aware of the decision made by the CRS Board regarding the AKA Printing and the American Life League.

If you have any questions or concerns about these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally Yours in Christ,

*+ Gerald Kicanas*

Most Rev. Gerald F. Kicanas  
Bishop of Tucson  
Chairman, Catholic Relief Services