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25 March 2008

Most Rev. Timothy M. Dolan, Chair  
Catholic Relief Services Board of Directors  
P. O. Box 070912  
Milwaukee, WI 53207-09112

Dear Archbishop Dolan,

After Shaw's and Norton's story about CRS, HIV, and condoms appeared in *Our Sunday Visitor*, I studied the "CRS' Position on the Prevention of Sexual Transmission of HIV" and found in that document substantial reasons for concern about CRS' policy. I considered writing to you confidentially about it. But my research turned up two of the attached files—the Client Education Flipchart and the covering letter sent with it from CRS' Baltimore office by Jared M. Hoffman in October 2007.

Those items show that at least some CRS' officials have been gravely violating their responsibilities as agents of the Catholic Church in the United States, and I suspect that some members of the board have been aware of it. I am confident that you have not been aware of it and will want to investigate carefully and deal appropriately with misbehavior you find. After consultation with prudent and experienced friends and much reflection, I judged that it would strengthen your hand if I publicized what I had found. I therefore wrote the attached article, which will soon appear in a Catholic periodical—on whose website the evidence will also be available to the public.

Some bishops' failure to take firm and prompt action needlessly escalated a few clerics' and religious men's seduction of minors into a disaster. You can prevent another, similar disaster. Precisely because CRS has done and is doing many other, good things, any misbehavior by its officials must be identified, condemned, and definitively ended. No wrongdoer can be allowed to keep his or her job.

Those involved in misbehavior or board members condoning it will offer several arguments against appropriate action by you and the majority of the board.

They will point out that the Church has not yet taught clearly about the morality of using condoms to prevent transmitting HIV. That's true but irrelevant. Even if public health officials might rightly promote condom use, promoting condom use cannot be an apostolate of the Catholic Church. So, CRS' policy rightly excludes promoting the use of condoms, but the policy is not being observed. Moreover, Cardinal Ratzinger's 1988 letter to the U.S. bishops characterized *public programs*' promotion of condom use as facilitation of evil.

Those involved in misbehavior or condoning it will also point out that CAFOD in England has a policy similar to CRS' but more or less openly promotes condom use. That's also true. But the U.S. bishops can and should do better than their British brothers. And unmasked duplicity will make the price to CRS higher than the high cost CAFOD has paid for its open abandonment of authentic apostolate.

I am writing to you now because I assume you will wish to confer with some other members of the CRS Board and perhaps some bishops not on the Board before the story breaks next week. On and after 2 April, I will be promoting awareness of my article.

In case you wish to contact me, I expect to be available tomorrow but will be out of touch on Thursday and Friday, the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. I will read my e-mail by noon on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and will be available that afternoon and much of the following two days.

I recall with gratitude your kindness to me when I stayed for a month at the North American College while you were rector there, and I pray that the Holy Spirit will enlighten and strengthen you to act effectively *in persona Christi* in fulfilling your pastoral responsibilities as Chair of the Board of CRS.

Yours in Jesus,

Germain Grisez

ARCHDIOCESE  OF MILWAUKEE  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

March 28, 2008

Dr. Germain Grisez  
Mount Saint Mary's University  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7799

Dear Dr. Grisez,

Thank you for your letter, with enclosures, of March 25, 2008.

It was sent by e-mail to the chancellor of the archdiocese, who dutifully brought it to my office in the mail of March 26. As I was out all that day in the diocese of Green Bay -- where I am serving as Apostolic Administrator -- I did not read your correspondence until Thursday morning, March 27.

I want to take your concerns very seriously. From my year of service on the board of Catholic Relief Services, and especially in my short three months as chair, I am convinced of its firm commitment to obey Church teaching in all its endeavors.

My intention is to submit the documentation you thoughtfully provided to both the USCCB Committee on Doctrine, and the Committee on Pro-Life Activities, for their review. I will ask them to ensure that the procedures being followed by CRS are consistent with our Catholic teaching, or to recommend any changes so that this is the case. Mr. Kenneth Hackett, President of CRS, is in complete agreement.

With this in mind, I would hope you would consider delaying publication of your proposed article until these two committees can respond.

With renewed gratitude for your concern, I am,

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan  
Archbishop of Milwaukee  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Catholic Relief Services

**From:** Grisez, Germain  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 29, 2008 4:34 PM  
**To:** 'Timothy M. Dolan'  
**Subject:** RE: Catholic Relief Services

Dear Archbishop Dolan,

Thank you for your letter of 28 March.

The action you are taking seems to me good so far as it goes. But it does not seem to me sufficient.

CRS' practice of distributing materials that its officials judge must not bear its name and logo does not violate Church teaching. Nevertheless, the Catholic Church cannot carry out her apostolate by providing information from which she must distance herself, and CRS, as an agency of the Catholic Church, should only engage in charitable activities that pertain to the Church's apostolate.

The article I sent you is already printed and being distributed. So, I cannot delay publication.

While I understand your responsibility for the Church and respect your conscientious judgment about how to fulfill it, I have my own responsibility for the Church. I've been trying to fulfill that responsibility all my adult life, and hardly ever considered it appropriate to do the sort of thing I am doing in this case. But what I have learned about CRS (only part of which is stated in my article) convinced me that publicity was appropriate.

Your brother in Jesus,

Germain Grisez

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**From:** Timothy M. Dolan [mailto:[archbishopdolan@archmil.org](mailto:archbishopdolan@archmil.org)]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2008 11:43 AM  
**To:** Grisez, Germain  
**Subject:** Catholic Relief Services

Dr. Grisez, please see the attached letter from Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan. The original has been placed in the mail today.

Gwen Fastabend  
Office of the Archbishop

  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE**  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

April 23, 2008  
Feast of St. Mark

My Brother Bishops,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chairman of the Board of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to share information concerning recent criticism related to our internal HIV guidance documents, and ancillary programming tools.

In a recent article<sup>1</sup> Germain Grisez has accused CRS of failing to adhere to Church teaching regarding condoms, and he implies that further organizational abuses of canon law, and possibly civil law, should be investigated. The article also states that CRS' failure to put its logo on a Zambia Government HIV informational tool indicates that CRS management is distancing itself from Church doctrine by omission. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as a whole, and CRS Board bishops in particular, are thus called to task for allegedly failing to adequately oversee CRS, their own agency. I think it would be helpful for me to offer some comments that might assist you to understand the questions being raised.

First, all HIV programs supported by CRS promote abstinence until marriage, and mutual fidelity within marriage. In no cases does CRS promote, purchase, or distribute condoms. In contexts where partners in the field are either failing to follow USCCB policy, or providing objectively inaccurate information related to condoms, CRS staff is asked to provide full and accurate information. This means that CRS ensures that no beneficiaries receive inaccurate information (e.g. that condoms prevent HIV 100% of the time).

CRS' HIV positions are fully in keeping with Conference policies articulated as far back as February 2003. Nonetheless, in light of this criticism, two weeks ago I asked CRS management to provide our guiding-documents to the USCCB Committee on Doctrine and Pastoral Practices, and to the Committee on Pro-Life Activities, in order to allow yet another review process to take place. I look forward to receiving the assistance of these two committees so that we can assure that our praxis is consonant with Church teaching.

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<sup>1</sup> Grisez, Germain, "The Church Betrayed? Why does Catholic Relief Services forbid putting its logo on the "educational" materials it provides about HIV and condoms? It is time for the US bishops to investigate their charitable agency." Catholic World Report (Ignatius Press) April 2008. Available at: [http://www.ignatius.com/Magazines/CWR/grisez\\_april08.htm](http://www.ignatius.com/Magazines/CWR/grisez_april08.htm)

With regard to the materials in Zambia, CRS' name does not appear on HIV pedagogical flipcharts because the tools belong not to us, but to the Government of Zambia's (GOZ) Ministry of Health. The GOZ has mandated that there only be one set of health educational material used throughout the country in governmental and non-governmental health facilities. In fact, CRS was able to convince the government of Zambia to *include* discussions on abstinence, behavior change, and fidelity in marriage within the material, information that was absent in previous drafts. The GOZ initial approach was to use WHO materials which referred to condoms as the only means to prevent HIV transmission. Thus, though CRS' name is not on the charts, the Church's teachings are now literally included within the material by virtue of CRS' efforts.

The CRS board, which I chair, is comprised of 12 bishops and seven lay persons, all of us deeply committed to the clear Catholic mission of CRS. Consequently, CRS stands at the forefront of the Catholic Church's compassionate response to the HIV pandemic, and we bishops can take great pride in the work they do. We support more than 250 HIV projects in 52 countries. Those projects directly served more than 4 million people last year (2007) alone. This work includes providing antiretroviral support to over 100,000 individuals.

In response to another comment in the article, I can assure you without reservations that CRS' business practices are exemplary. The organization is subject to regular external audits, and submits its internal systems and corporate practices for review to numerous third-party oversight entities, including the Better Business Bureau. This is a Fortune 200 non-profit for a reason: management is capable, engaged and accountable, and staffs are responsible, committed and talented. I see no basis for asserting otherwise.

I know that the many of you who have had the chance to witness first hand the work of Catholic Relief Services have been not only impressed but also filled with gratitude. Through CRS, the healing arms of the Church manifest our true love of Jesus Christ and the people we serve, all with allegiance to the Church's moral teaching. In my brief time on the board, and my short four months as Chair, I have come to appreciate and admire the work of CRS in our name, and am honored to serve.

I will keep you posted, especially as to the conclusions of the review undertaken by our two committees.

With prayerful best wishes, I am,

Fraternally in Christ  
+ J. J. Murphy M. Dolan

Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan  
Archbishop of Milwaukee  
Chairman of the Board of Directors, Catholic Relief Services



## Mount Saint Mary's University Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7799

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12 June 2008

Most Rev. Timothy M. Dolan, Chair  
Catholic Relief Services Board of Directors  
P. O. Box 070912  
Milwaukee, WI 53207-09112

Dear Archbishop Dolan,

A friend sent me a copy of your letter dated April 23, 2008, addressed: "My Brother Bishops." The second paragraph of your letter inaccurately describes my article about Catholic Relief Services published in the April 2008 issue of *Catholic World Report*. If the statements in your second paragraph were true, I would be guilty of defaming the officials of CRS, its Board, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as a whole.

You say: "In a recent article Germain Grisez has accused CRS of failing to adhere to Church teaching regarding condoms . . ."

I say nothing whatever in the article about Church teaching regarding condoms. On March 25, 2008, I sent you a covering letter along with the text of my article and the CRS documents mentioned in it. In that letter I pointed out that it is true that "the Church has not yet taught clearly about the morality of using condoms to prevent transmitting HIV." Moreover, when you said in your letter to me of March 28, 2008, that you were submitting the documentation I provided to the USCCB Committees on Doctrine and Pro-Life Activities, I responded the following day in an e-mail to you:

CRS' practice of distributing materials that its officials judge must not bear its name and logo does not violate Church teaching. Nevertheless, the Catholic Church cannot carry out her apostolate by providing information from which she must distance herself, and CRS, as an agency of the Catholic Church, should only engage in charitable activities that pertain to the Church's apostolate.

Thus, your statement that I accused CRS of failing to adhere to Church teaching regarding condoms not only is untrue but misleading with respect to my real concern, namely, the apparent deviation of CRS as an agency of the Church from activity appropriate as apostolate.

You say: "The article also states that CRS' failure to put its logo on a Zambia Government HIV Informational tool indicates that CRS management is distancing itself from Church doctrine by omission."

I do not state that CRS *failed* to put its logo on anything, nor do I state that the CRS is distancing itself from Church *doctrine*, nor do I state that the distancing is by *omission*. I state, accurately, that CRS *forbids* putting its name and logo on *information about condoms* and by that prohibition distances itself from those materials. I quote from a policy statement, "CRS' Position on the Prevention of Sexual Transmission of HIV," dated December 2007, and approved by the CRS Executive Leadership Team: "Any written educational material that contains information about condoms must not carry the CRS name or logo," and state: "I do not see how CRS policymakers can reconcile their need to distance the Church from such material with their responsibility to carry on a charitable apostolate in the Church's name."

I say nothing about a "Zambia Government HIV Informational tool." I describe a flipchart mailed out on a CD, along with related materials, to "colleagues" in many countries by Jared M. Hoffman, an executive at CRS' Baltimore headquarters, who identifies himself as "AidsRelief/Chief of Party." I quote Hoffman's covering letter: "CRS has ownership rights of the document"; "CRS has chosen not to include the CRS or AIDSRelief logo on the flipchart, due to the potential sensitivity of the information contained in these materials among Church partners"; and: "The comprehensive and accurate information on prevention contained in this material is consistent with CRS policy, and we are confident that the flipchart will be useful in all settings, requiring only minor adaptations to ensure cultural competence."

You say: "The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as a whole, and CRS Board bishops in particular, are thus called to task for allegedly failing to adequately oversee CRS, their own agency."

In my article, I do not call to task the CRS Board bishops, much less the USCCB as a whole, for failing to adequately oversee CRS. Rather, I do two things: (1) I make it clear that my concern is *apparent* wrongdoing by CRS officials and the possibility that the bishops have been misled, and (2) I propose a thorough investigation of CRS by its Board.

(1) In my article, I presented evidence from CRS' own documents that it is promoting the use of condoms, in violation of its own stated policy, and argue: "Since CRS is an agency of the United States bishops, its officials should act as their agents. If CRS officials have been pretending to follow the bishops' policy while disregarding it, they have betrayed their responsibility and misled the bishops. Any bishop would fire a real estate agent who did that to him." While I do not assert that CRS' officials have betrayed their responsibility, I do say that "if and insofar as they have not been conducting a charitable apostolate in the Church's name, they are betraying the Church herself—not only the bishops but all the faithful, and even Jesus himself, the Church's Head."

(2) I therefore urge the CRS Board to investigate the agency. Regarding the Board in general and you, I say: "The few members of the CRS board I know personally are conscientious people. In particular, Archbishop Timothy Dolan, who became chairman of the board in November 2007, was a fine rector of the North American College, and I am sure he is a good bishop."

My reputation as a scholar depends on people's believing that I am competent, careful about truth, and fair to those I criticize. The statements about me in the second paragraph of your letter will destroy my reputation as a scholar with anyone who believes them. My reputation with bishops as a Catholic scholar in theology is especially important to me. You sent your letter to your "Brother Bishops." I do not think you deliberately intended to defame me. Indeed, I suspect that your letter was drafted by Michael Wiest or some other CRS official.

So, as your brother in our Lord Jesus, I ask you to realize that you have wronged me and hope that you will agree to rectify the injury by sending another letter to every bishop in the United States correcting the false statements about me and arrange that this new letter, like the one of April 23, be publicized by CNS. To ensure that your new letter is adequate, I request that you allow me to review it before sending it or, if you prefer, that you allow me to draft it for you.

Yours in Jesus,



Germain Grisez

July 21, 2008  
Years of St. Lawrence  
of Brindisi  
Year of St. Paul

Dr. Norman Buring  
Mount St. Mary's University

Dear Professor Buring,

Thank you for your recent letter. Please pardon me for my tardiness in replying. I have been on-the-road too much.

I am sorry that our letter to you of April 23, 2008, has led to misrepresentation of your original communication.

Officials at CRS and I very much appreciated your initiative in telling us of your concerns. It was clear to us that you have a lot of respect for the CRS apostolate, and simply wanted to make sure it remains true to its Catholic identity and mission.

You will be pleased to learn that the USCCB committees on Doctrine and on Pro-Life agree with many of your concerns as well. I have instructed that the document that caused your original consternation no longer be distributed by CRS, and that the policies and praxis of CRS on this issue be reformed in line with the USCCB recommendations.

My eventual correspondence with my brother bishops will make clear our debt and gratitude to you.

With prayerful best wishes, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,

F. K. Murphy M. 2008

COPY

July 29, 2008  
Year of St. Paul

Brother Bishops:

In correspondence last month, I promised to keep you advised about the efforts of Catholic Relief Services to continue making sure its apostolate remains always faithful to Catholic moral principles in its acclaimed programs to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

I am very grateful to our conference committees on doctrine and on pro-life activities for accepting the invitation of Ken Hackett and myself to provide careful review of CRS policies regarding the use of condoms in protecting against HIV/AIDS, and for their recent helpful recommendations for some changes. Thanks as well to John Norton, Russell Shaw, and Germain Grisez for their thoughtful reports that prompted this review.

In response to the advice from our conference committees, the controversial teaching document, *Flipchart for Client Education: HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care*, will no longer be distributed by CRS.

In addition, I have asked Bishop George Thomas, a member of the CRS board, to work with Dr. John Haas of the National Catholic Bioethics Center to collaborate on an update of CRS' Position on the *Prevention of Sexual Transmission of HIV*, making sure that all the recommendations proposed by the two USCCB committees are incorporated. The revised document will then be returned to the USCCB Committees for a final review. CRS will then keep the NCBC on retainer for future counsel and review of moral questions.

When this is all finished, I will see that all the bishops receive the pertinent documentation.

Thanks.

Fraternally in Christ,



Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan  
Archbishop of Milwaukee  
Chair, Catholic Relief Services