

Local CRL Chapter Description

Foundation:

A Catholic Rural Life Chapter is a group individuals committed to upholding and supporting rural Catholic culture. A CRL Chapter is a part of a family of chapters around the country. With both the national CRL office and the local diocese behind them, they maintain with firm and unbending conviction that genuine rural culture is a priceless and utterly essential bulwark of a healthy, flourishing, community. A CRL Chapter seeks to foster and celebrate rural Catholic culture in their local area.

The Catholic Church has always had a concern for rural families, particularly those involved in agriculture, recognizing their essential role in society. St. Pope John Paul II states:

“In history, these two factors — work and the land — are to be found at the beginning of every human society.” (*Centessimus Annus*, paragraph 31, Rome, 1991)

Chapter Structure:

Chapters may be formed within a diocesan structure or they may represent an individual parish or cluster of parishes. A local co-op or perhaps a student group could also become a CRL Chapter. CRL requires only that the bishop of the diocese within which the chapter exists, approve of the chapter. Indeed, the support of the bishop and his diocese can be a key to success.

Chapter Leadership:

Leadership with a vision for vibrant rural culture may be comprised of a diocesan staff person and/or lay volunteer. CRL recommends 1 or 2 chairs responsible for directing the work of the Rural Life Committee (or similarly-named group). It is helpful to have a priest or deacon on the leadership team to assure continuity in communication with the diocesan staff, but this is not required. A brief sample description of the key committee positions is available from CRL.

More Information

For more information and background on CRL Chapter, or to begin a new CRL Chapter, please contact us at info@CatholicRuralLife.org.



CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE

Applying the teachings of Jesus Christ for the betterment of rural America