



Winter, 2013

Volume 55 Number 2

**Catholic Rural Life**

(ISSN 1089-6570) is published by the National Catholic Rural Life Conference (NCRLC) for its members. Our mission is to apply the teachings of Jesus Christ for the social, economic and spiritual development of rural America with responsibility for the care of God's creation. By providing spiritual, educational and advocacy assistance, NCRLC helps rural people shape their futures and lead lives of dignity.

**NCRLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President, Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane**  
Bishop of Venice, Florida

**Most Reverend Richard E. Pates**  
Bishop of Des Moines, Iowa

**Most Reverend William P. Callahan, OFM Conv.**  
Bishop of La Crosse, Wis.

**Most Reverend Michael W. Warfel**  
Bishop of Great Falls-Billings, Mont.

**Ron Rosmann**  
Harlan, Iowa

**Reverend John Rausch**  
Glenmary Missioners, Stanton, Ky.

**Reverend Gregory Mastey**  
Pastor of Holdingford Area Catholic Community,  
Holdingford, Minn.

**Secretary, Dr. Christopher Thompson**  
St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity

**Ms. Elvira Ramirez**  
Catholic Charities, Stockton, Calif.

**Ms. Jennifer Kraska**  
Colorado Catholic Conference, Denver, Col.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
James Ennis

**STAFF:**

**POLICY COORDINATOR**  
Robert Gronski

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR**  
Kara Storey

**DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR**  
Beth Hyser

**BOOKKEEPER & MAILING COORDINATOR**  
Darlene Limoges

On the Gieske Farm in Melrose, Minn. Cover photo by Bob Pearle



# Contents

## Feature Stories

### Fresh Eyes

*A new look at the old idea of Distributism*  
— By Dale Ahlquist

8

### Building Bridges of Hope

*CCHD brings grants to rural communities*  
— By Kara Storey

10

### The Dignity of it All

*Respecting the dignity of all God's creation*  
— By Dr. Marie George

14

## Program Stories

*Life & Dignity: Living Our Faith in Rural Communities*

### The New Evangelization and Celebration of Rogation and Ember Days

— Sr. Esther Mary Nickel, R.S.M.

16

### Beyond Local Food: Supporting Family Farms Far from Cities

— Robert Gronski

20

## Commentaries

*Creation Care ■ Outreach & Ministry ■ Agriculture & Food ■*

### Evangelization Illuminates Faith and Dignity of Indigenous Hispanics

■ 18

### Farm Bill 2012: A "Needs List"

■ 22

## News and Notes

### NCRLC News

4

### In This Issue - James Ennis

6