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Catholic Rural Life is a 97-year-old non-profit organization. We promote Catholic life in rural communities by educating and inspiring leaders and advocating on their behalf. We believe that it is an important, God-given call to live a rural life: one centered on faith, community and care for creation. Our work supports and builds the Church by educating priests, religious and laity through various programs and resources. Become a part of our mission by becoming a part of our member community.

Catholic Rural Life Magazine is a resource produced by CRL on a quarterly basis. We strive to educate and inspire through informative articles and telling of stories about people and their real-life experiences.

FROM THE EDITOR

This year has turned out very differently from what we expected when the “ball dropped” last January. We have endured COVID-19, state shutdowns, unemployment, widespread social unrest and the election, not to mention natural disasters. But as Christians we trust that “all things work for good for those who love God” (Rom. 8:28). Even in this mess of 2020, God has a plan, a plan that includes you and me. Dare I even say that like Queen Esther, He has prepared us for “such a time as this” (Esth. 4:14)?

In this issue, we see how God has prepared agricultural workers to creatively adapt to the challenges of our times. We hear stories of local food systems rising to the occasion when grocery store shelves were empty. We also see how the slower pace of life, forced on us all by a pandemic, became a gift in many ways. And above all, we see how clinging to Christ illuminates these dark times.

As we look forward in hope toward another new year, I pray that we do not forget 2020’s many beautiful blessings and lessons learned. God is faithful, He will not leave us orphaned. I leave you with the words of St. Thérèse of Lisieux from “Her Last Conversations”: “Everything is grace because everything is God’s gift. Whatever be the character of life or its unexpected events – to the heart that loves, all is well.”

Enjoy!



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Seeds of Faith in the Midst of Challenges: Covid, Riots, Fires & Storms

Max Becher

Max Becher lives with his wife and two children in rural Maine. A member of the CRL Board of Directors, he co-owns and manages a farm-direct distribution business.

Kara Storey

Kara Storey is a freelance writer and homeschooling mother from Des Moines, Iowa.

Liese Peterson

Liese Peterson, CEO of 9 Elms Development, lives in rural Nevada.

Kevin Spafford

Kevin Spafford, CFP, is a wealth manager and succession planning specialist from Yuba City, Calif.

Ron Rosmann

Ron Rosmann operates Rosmann Family Farms with his wife, Maria, and his sons outside of Harlan, Iowa. The farm is known for its diversification and organic agricultural practices.

Tom Nelson

Tom Nelson is the Rural Life Office Coordinator for the Diocese of Madison, Wis.

Heather Kuhnau

Heather Kuhnau dairy farms in Prairie du Sac, Wis. When not farming, she likes to garden, cook and play the fiddle.

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