



# CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE

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Painting by Joshua Cunningham

*Catholic Rural Life is a 96-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

We at Catholic Rural Life believe that living, working and farming in rural America is a particular vocation: a special calling from God.

In this issue, we explore different kinds of rural vocations, from the priesthood to motherhood. Each story demonstrates the unique and beautiful call to live rural life, and in putting together this issue I was once again struck by the amazing hope that keeps showing itself. There really is *life* in rural life!

Enjoy!



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## Contributors

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### **Joshua Cunningham**

*Joshua is a landscape painter who lives with his family in Minnesota.*

### **Fr. Christopher Droste**

*Fr. Christopher is the pastor of three rural Indiana parishes.*

### **Fr. Matthew J. Flatley**

*Fr. Flatley is the pastor of four parishes in rural Missouri.*

### **Most Rev. John T. Folda**

*Bishop Folda is the Bishop of the Diocese of Fargo, North Dakota.*

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### **Fr. Aaron Junge**

*Fr. Aaron is the pastor of a cluster of six parishes in eastern Iowa.*

### **Fr. Richard Kusugh, VC**

*Fr. Richard is the pastor of two parishes and four missions in La Paz County, Arizona.*

### **Sr. Christine Pratt, OSU**

*Sr. Christine is active in rural ministry in Ohio.*

### **Ginger Shields**

*Ginger, along with her husband and family, lives and works the family farm in rural Florida.*

### **Christopher Thompson, PhD**

*Christopher is Academic Dean, Professor of Moral Theology, and Director of the Institute for Theological Research at the Seminaries of St. Paul in Minnesota.*

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