

Parish Representative

Parish Representatives are appointed by their rectors (or designee) to be the spokesperson for Episcopal Relief & Development in their congregations. Because every Episcopalian should have the chance to reach out and help those in need throughout the world, Parish Representatives are in place to share with their parishioners Episcopal Relief & Development's messages about eradicating poverty, responding to the needy in times of crisis and building communities around the world.

Parish Representatives work directly with their Diocesan Coordinator, receiving:

- Frequent diocesan updates
- Important news items sent by the Episcopal Relief & Development staff
- Reminders of important events or dates
- Examples of best practices from other Parish Representatives

Parish Representatives are encouraged to visit the Episcopal Relief & Development web site (www.er-d.org) weekly to stay current with Episcopal Relief & Development's ongoing work.

The Parish Representative will meet with his/her parish's clergy to map out a plan to promote Episcopal Relief & Development on a regular basis. It is important to arrange for the annual Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday. More details are available online: <http://www.er-d.org/ERDSunday>.

A list of current Episcopal Relief & Development publications is always available on the Episcopal Relief & Development web site. Parish Representatives will order a supply of appropriate publications for the parish tract rack and ensure the material is current and kept in stock. It is particularly important to maintain current and adequate supplies of the *Gifts for Life* catalog in tract racks. Orders of all materials can be made through by the Episcopal Marketplace [website](#) or by calling 1.866.937.2772.

Camera-ready bulletin inserts are available online and should be used in conjunction with calls for help following major disasters and to support Episcopal Relief & Development events. Parish Representatives should coordinate the copying and distribution of the insert with the church office.

Parish Representatives will encourage support of Episcopal Relief & Development by and through various parish organizations including the Vestry, Episcopal Churchwomen, Youth Ministries, Outreach or Social Ministries committees, Adult Education classes, Lenten programs (including children's donations to Hope Chests), Advent festivals, Daughters of the King and Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

Bishop's Blend coffee is Episcopal Relief & Development's line of specialty teas and coffees, which serves as an excellent fundraising and awareness tool. Parish Representatives should try to make *Bishop's Blend* the coffee and tea of choice at Coffee Hour each week. Fundraising opportunities are available for groups who wish to purchase and sell the coffee.

Episcopal Relief & Development's *Gifts for Life* catalog, which is also available [online](#), provides gifts such as animals, emergency supplies, tools and seeds, clean water and sanitation, preventative health items and economic opportunities to families and communities in need. Parish Representatives will encourage their parishioners to use the catalog throughout the year as a way to give gifts or honor family members and friends at holidays, birthdays and other special occasions.

While there are many ways to be an advocate for Episcopal Relief & Development, the time requirement for Parish Representatives is relatively minor. Information received from the Diocesan Coordinator can usually be shared with parishioners "as-is" either through the parish newsletter, a bulletin board, an e-mail distribution or in presentations or conversation. Also, there may be an occasional need to speak before the congregation, an Adult Education class or the Outreach Committee when there is a critical need for donations following a major disaster. Your involvement as an advocate and spokesperson for Episcopal Relief & Development plays a crucial role in the Church's efforts to heal a hurting world.