

## CRS speaker

# encounter LENT 2017



## Thomas Awiapo

CRS Global Solidarity

Thomas Awiapo tells a truly inspiring story of survival and success. Growing up in a small African village in Ghana, Thomas was orphaned before the age of ten and left on his own to struggle for survival. He was the second of four brothers; his youngest two brothers died of malnutrition and lack of care.

His search for food led him to an elementary school, where he was fed a small meal every day. He survived, studied, and eventually won scholarships to attend college. He later earned a master's degree from California State University.

Today, Thomas works with Catholic Relief Services as integral part in bringing global solidarity. He lives in Ghana with his wife and four children.

His story of initiative and his joyful presence has brought inspiration to thousands of people in the U.S.