

During Lent, we are invited to encounter God in a deeper way through prayer, fasting and almsgiving and to answer our Gospel call to see the face of Christ in our sisters and brothers in need. During this liturgical season, through CRS Rice Bowl—Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program—we will journey to Uganda, El Salvador, and Indonesia to learn how issues like hunger and climate change are impacting our global family. Along the way, we will reflect on how the Eucharist—the Bread of Life—compels us to share bread for life with all members of our human family.

Through CRS Rice Bowl stories, videos, and lesson plans, we will discover how our faith calls us to serve. We will also see how your Lenten alms provide opportunities for people experiencing hunger, malnutrition, and the effects of climate change to build a prosperous future for themselves and their families.

CRS Rice Bowl makes it easy for educators to integrate Lenten spirituality and Catholic teaching into their classrooms. It also gives them tools and tips to encourage students to share it at home—where the foundation for a lifetime of faith begins.

Here are some easy ways to get started:

- Visit crsricebowl.org/1-8 to find resources for Catholic school teachers, including lesson plans and activity sheets. Teachers can use these resources to go deeper into the pillars of Lent, global solidarity, and Catholic teaching in their classrooms.
- Order FREE English or Spanish CRS Rice Bowls online at crsricebowl.org/order or by calling 1-800-222-0025. Order one Rice Bowl per student. These cardboard bowls are used to collect each family's alms. Each Rice Bowl comes with a calendar with daily reflections that families can read together. Posters are also available to order and post in your school.
- 3. **Plan a kickoff event** to distribute Rice Bowls to students and prayerfully begin this holy season. You can use the Prayer to Begin Lent resource (found at **crsricebowl.org/1-8**) as a template.

If you have any questions about CRS Rice Bowl, please contact me at wmissions@cfgbwi.org.

Thank you for inviting your students to encounter God and our global family this Lent through CRS Rice Bowl!

Danielle Dercks

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