Bishop’s Endorsement Letter

*Your (arch)bishop can adapt this letter and send it to parishes and schools in your (arch)diocese to invite them to participate in CRS Rice Bowl.*

Dear Friends in Christ,

40 years ago, Catholics in the United States wanted to respond to famine in Africa during Lent. Could we feed the hungry through Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving? The answer was yes—and it came in the form of a small cardboard box.

Today, CRS Rice Bowl continues to connect Catholics in our (arch)diocese with our brothers and sisters in need around the world, while providing resources to bring Lenten spirituality to life for families and parish and school communities.

I encourage all of the parishes and schools in our (arch) diocese to use CRS Rice Bowl for Lent 2015.

Please be sure to order a CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar for each family in your community. These materials are available in both English and Spanish and are free of charge. You may also visit [*crsricebowl.org*](http://www.crsricebowl.org/) to find additional resources, including:

* Lenten devotions and prayers
* Reflections for faith-sharing communities and youth ministry groups
* Lesson plans, videos and activity sheets for Catholic school educators and religious educators
* Ideas for community gatherings and simple Lenten meal events
* A new app that delivers prayers and resources directly to your mobile device

Thank you for inviting families in your parish or school to an enriched Lenten journey through CRS Rice Bowl.

Yours in Christ,

**[Signature]**