

COLLECTING CRS RICE BOWLS: 5 Steps to Success

1. Decide which collection method works best for your community.

- **Option 1:** Participants bring their cardboard CRS Rice Bowls with their contributions inside. Collecting donations in the CRS Rice Bowls makes your community's Lenten efforts concrete and visible.

To consider: Be prepared to empty the CRS Rice Bowls, count coins and handle checks. Recruit volunteers to help! Consider youth group members or Confirmation candidates.

- **Option 2:** Ask participants to convert their CRS Rice Bowl gifts to checks for easier counting. **Checks can be made out to schools or parishes with "CRS Rice Bowl" in the memo line.** A second collection or a CRS Rice Bowl display box are common ways to collect donations.

To consider: Be prepared to cash the checks and combine them into one donation. **Be sure to write "CRS Rice Bowl" in the memo line of your check,** and send your check to your local diocesan director (visit crs.org/contact to find your diocesan director) or to:

Catholic Relief Services
CRS Rice Bowl
P.O. Box 17090
Baltimore, Maryland 21297-0303

- **Option 3:** Participants donate directly to CRS. Donate online at crsricebowl.org/give or by sending a check to the address above. **Consider** asking participants to tell you how much they donated so you can share your results.

2. Plan a fun and meaningful collection ritual.

CRS Rice Bowl offers An Offertory Prayer to End the Lenten Journey to help your

community conclude this holy season. Visit crsricebowl.org/parish for more ideas.

3. Spread the word about when and where CRS Rice Bowls will be collected.

Be sure to let your community know when and where they should turn in their CRS Rice Bowls. Announce your collection details in a variety of ways so that everyone will get the news!

- Hang up the collection poster that you will receive mid-Lent.
- Use our bulletin announcements and bulletin inserts.
- Publish details on your community's Facebook page or Twitter account.
- Announce details after each Mass on the Sunday before your collection.
- Send home the Letter to Families: Turn in Your CRS Rice Bowls (crsricebowl.org/parish).

4. Collect and count donations.

Recruit volunteers from your parish ministries, religious education program, youth ministry or parish school to help you count change. Send one check to your diocese or directly to CRS.

5. Thank your community, and let them know the impact their gift will have.

Hang up the Thank You poster you receive from CRS at the end of Lent. Let parishioners know how much they contributed and what impact their donations will have. Use the symbolic amounts in the CRS Gift Catalog on gifts.crs.org. See crsricebowl.org for other creative ways to thank your community.