Sample Email to Schools

*Format this text and send it to schools leaders or directors of religious education to invite their communities to participate in CRS Rice Bowl this Lent.*

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. 40 years later, it still does. But now, CRS Rice Bowl’s reach goes beyond a cardboard box - and into classrooms across the country.

CRS Rice Bowl makes it easy for educators to integrate Lenten spirituality and Catholic social teaching into their classrooms. And most importantly, it gives educators tools and tips for bringing Lenten spirituality into the home – where the foundation for a lifetime of faith begins.

Whether educators at your school are able to teach one lesson per week from the CRS Rice Bowl Educator’s Guide – or if they only have 10 minutes to spare – CRS Rice Bowl is an excellent way to let your students experience the connection between Lenten prayer, fasting, and giving – and to let them know that what they give up for Lent can change the lives of people around the world and in their own communities.

We hope you will use CRS Rice Bowl this Lent! Here are some easy ways to get started:

1. [Watch this video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VKYSNkiPVk&index=1&list=PLt5PsPjJAk-2ea_6hc4WGnmQ5aYMjYmLw) for 5 easy steps to getting CRS Rice Bowl started in your school.
2. Order FREE English or Spanish materials [online](http://crs.org/act/us-materials/itemlist.cfm?cat_id=1) or by calling 1-800-222-0025.
* **Order CRS Rice Bowls (one per student)** – these cardboard bowls are used to collect each family’s Lenten alms. Each CRS Rice Bowl comes with a Lenten calendar with a reflection for each day of Lent. Families should say the short reflection together each night before dinner and turn in their CRS Rice Bowl at the end of Lent.
* **Order CRS Rice Bowl Educator’s Guides -** these guides are for teachers/religious educators who would like to bring Lenten spirituality or Catholic social teaching into their 1st-8th grade classrooms. This guide and more, downloadable, printable resources can also be found online at [crsricebowl.org/schools](http://www.crsricebowl.org/schools).
1. **Plan a CRS Rice Bowl Kickoff Event** to distribute CRS Rice Bowls to students and prayerfully begin Lent. You can use the Prayer Service to Begin Lent (found in the Educator’s Guide) as a template.

If you have any questions about CRS Rice Bowl, please contact me or CRSRiceBowl@crs.org.

Thank you for considering inviting CRS Rice Bowl to be a part of your students’ faith journey this Lent!

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