

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,

Our Catholic community in the United States does something amazing each Lent. Through prayers, fasting and almsgiving, we give families around the world the tools they need to rise above poverty and provide for themselves—and their communities. We might call it the “CRS Rice Bowl effect.” And this year, we’re at it again.

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

I encourage all of the parishes and schools in our (arch) diocese to use CRS Rice Bowl for Lent 2016.

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. Together, we’ll make this year’s CRS Rice Bowl effect greater than ever.

Yours in Christ,

**[Signature]**