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.*

**For Lent, for life.** Every Lent, Catholics in the United States do something amazing. Their prayers, fasting and almsgiving become lifesaving aid for millions of individuals living in conditions of poverty around the world. The hungry are fed; the thirsty are given drink; the homeless find shelter. And this has been going on for more than 40 years. That’s the impact of CRS Rice Bowl. That’s how what you give up for Lent can change lives. A simple cardboard box—a CRS Rice Bowl—inspires prayers, fasting and almsgiving within Catholic families across the U.S., and delivers hope to millions around the world.

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 “How to Kick off CRS Rice Bowl” for 5 easy steps to getting CRS Rice Bowl started in your parish. (Check it out at **crsricebowl.org/parishes**!)
2. Order FREE English or Spanish materials online (**crsricebowl.org/order**) 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 that families can do together.
* **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**.
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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