



Encounter ourselves. Encounter our neighbors. Encounter our God.

**Encounter Lent.**

# Lent is a time of encounter.

Through **PRAYER**, we encounter Christ, present in the face of every member of our human family.

Through **FASTING**, we encounter the obstacles that prevent us from loving God and neighbor.

Through **ALMSGIVING**, we encounter our brothers and sisters around the world, sharing God's gifts with others.

# **Build a culture of encounter.**

CRS Rice Bowl is YOUR tool to build a culture of encounter this Lent.

- **Provide families with an enriched Lenten experience of global solidarity**
- **Build bridges between your faith community and communities around the world**
- **Live out a spirituality of solidarity for Lent and beyond**

# A Lenten Prayer

God of all people,

You walk with us as we journey through life. You know our joys, struggles, fears, dreams. You know us better than we know ourselves.

This Lenten season, may we too learn to walk with others. Through our prayers, fasting and almsgiving, may we encounter you, our God, by encountering our neighbors in need, and through this, live your call to serve our one human family.

Amen

# **This Lent, encounter members of our one human family from**

- **India** – Week 1
- **Zambia** – Week 2
- **El Salvador** – Week 3
- **Mexico** – Week 4
- **Ethiopia** – Week 5
- **Diocese of Honolulu** – Week 6

# Encounter the Singh Family

*Loving God, inspire us to go to the margins.*



When rivers in India flood, Megha and Raj Singh and their family can't buy and sell food at the market. If the waters don't recede, their fields fail, placing the family in danger.

**That's why CRS is teaching the Singhs new farming techniques.**

Catholic social teaching principle: **Option for the Poor**  
Development sector: **Agriculture**

# Encounter Evelina

*Loving God, help us protect the most vulnerable.*



Evelina Banda, like generations of Zambians before her, used to survive on meals made from corn flour, usually a porridge called 'nshima. Unfortunately, it has little nutritional value.

**That's why CRS is teaching mothers like Evelina good nutrition practices.**

Catholic social teaching principle: **Sacredness & Dignity of Life**  
Development sector: **Agriculture/Health**

# Encounter Fernando

*Loving God, awaken in us a passion for justice.*



Fernando dreams of being a businessman in El Salvador. It's his love of sales and his dream of a better future for his family that motivates him.

**That's why he joined CRS-sponsored *YouthBuild* to develop his skills & passion.**

Catholic social teaching principle: **Dignity of Work/Rights of Workers**  
Development sector: **Youth/Vocational Development**



# Encounter Maria

*Loving God, may we never forget that we are one family.*



Maria remembers when she used to consider her family rich growing up in Ejido Hidalgo, Mexico. But now, few jobs and less rain mean people are leaving in search of a better life.

**That's why CRS sponsors a greenhouse: to give community and economic growth.**

Catholic social teaching principle: **Call to Community, Family & Participation**

Development sector: **Agriculture**

# Encounter Dita

*Loving God, may we be your hands in caring for all creation.*



Dita and her family depended on money they earned by selling crops from their small farm. But frequent droughts in Ethiopia often meant they had no crops to sell. Their family went hungry.

**That's why CRS taught Dita entrepreneurial skills and helped her open a store.**

Catholic social teaching principle: **Care for Creation**  
Development sector: **Agriculture/Economic Growth**

# Encounter Our Neighbors

*Loving God, give us eyes to see the needs of our neighbors.*



Migrants to Hawaii from the Micronesian island of Chuuk often struggle with hunger and homelessness.

**That's why the Diocese of Honolulu started the One 'Ohana: Food and Housing for All project—and CRS Rice Bowl is proud to help fund it.**

Catholic social teaching principle: **Solidarity**  
Through the local 25% of CRS Rice Bowl money, we make **global/local connections.**





Catholic Relief Services  
**CRS RICE BOWL**

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[crsplatodearroz.org](http://crsplatodearroz.org)

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*Un tiempo de*  
**encuentro**  
**encounter**  
*Lent*

The Good News is no mere matter of words: it is about leaving ourselves behind and **encountering others.**

- Pope Francis,  
*'Urbi et Orbi' Message, 2014*

**Prepare to build a culture of  
encounter this Lent.**

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