Sample Email to Parishes

*Format this text and send it to parish leaders to invite their communities to participate in CRS Rice Bowl this Lent.*

**We are called to build a culture of encounter.** Jesus made that clear from the way he lived, the message he preached. Pope Francis makes that clear by his own daily example. And we have a host of holy men and women who have come before us, who have gone to the margins of society so that every member of our human family might know the love of God.

Now, it’s our turn. With the spiritual pillars of Lent to guide us, we set out on a 40-day journey, a journey of encounter with ourselves, our neighbors and our God. And CRS Rice Bowl will be our guide.

Join more than 13,000 faith communities in 180 dioceses around the U.S. in prayer, fasting and almsgiving this Lent. Together, we will serve our brothers and sisters most in need around the world while forming families and faith communities in global solidarity. I invite you to take action to build the culture of encounter as missionary disciples with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) 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 at **crsricebowl.org/order** or by calling 1-800-222-0025. **(And download the CRS Rice Bowl app in English and Spanish for iOS and Android devices!)**
* **Order CRS Rice Bowls (one per household)**. 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 which families can read together.
* **The Coordinator’s Guide** comes with each order and contains resources to help integrate CRS Rice Bowl into your faith community.
1. **Plan a time to distribute CRS Rice Bowls to each member of your parish community.** Your pastor can bless the CRS Rice Bowls during Mass (find a sample blessing in the Coordinator’s Guide). Consider asking students in your parish to distribute CRS Rice Bowls after Mass.

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

Thank you for considering CRS Rice Bowl as a part of your parishioners’ faith journey!

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