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.*

**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.

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. 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.

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

1. Visit **crsricebowl.org/schools** to find all the Lenten resource available for Catholic school teachers and parish religious educators.
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.
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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