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 love our neighbor.** But, like the scholar in the scripture passage, we may find ourselves wondering, “Who is my neighbor?” This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl—Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten faith-in-action program, will help us answer that question.

We are invited to reflect on how an encounter with our neighbor—as companions on life’s journeys—can be transformative. We will see how our prayers, fasting and alms can support those worldwide who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities.

Join nearly 14,000 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](mailto:crsricebowl@crs.org).

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

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