

encounter

Lent COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY



Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbor. —Pope Francis

Through **PRAYER**, we encounter Christ in our lives and in every member of our human family.

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

Through **ALMSGIVING**, we encounter God’s love, and share it with our brothers and sisters in need.

This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl invites you, your family and community to journey alongside the Good Samaritan, to reflect on the question: Who is my neighbor?

So many of our neighbors are on the move: migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, travelers. The Good Samaritan—a traveler himself, one on the move—shows us what it means to encounter the stranger, to accompany one in need and become a companion on the journey.

Week of Lent	Featured Country	Catholic Social Teaching Principle	Story of Hope
Feb 18 - 24	Iraq	Sacredness and Dignity of the Human Person	Finding a new home and community through education
Feb 25 - Mar 3	Nicaragua	Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers	Gaining skills to build economic opportunity
Mar 4 - 10	Burkina Faso	Care for God’s Creation	Creating resilience with new farming techniques
Mar 11 -17	Haiti	Call to Community, Family and Participation	Bringing new educational practices to the classroom
Mar 18 - 24	Malawi	Option for the Poor	Accessing seeds and tools needed to support family
Mar 25 - 31	United States	Solidarity	Illustrating the local impact of CRS Rice Bowl’s Lenten gifts that remain in local dioceses



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We are called to be companions on the journey.

Lent is a time of **encounter**. It is a season to reflect on our relationships with ourselves, our neighbors and our God. It is a time of preparation and transformation, not only providing us with an opportunity to deepen and enrich our faith as a family and Catholic community, but also to support our brothers and sisters most in need around the world.

CRS Rice Bowl is our guide, a vehicle through which the stories of communities around the world can be shared, an invitation through which our prayers and Lenten sacrifices can change lives. This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl invites you, your family and community to journey alongside the Good Samaritan, to reflect on the question: **Who is my neighbor?**

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Jesus uses this parable to inspire and teach his disciples, to show them how loving and caring for our neighbors—no matter who they are or where they live—contributes to the building of a culture of encounter. This is Jesus' answer to the question: Who is my neighbor?

This Lent, we listen to Jesus' invitation expressed through the parable of the Good Samaritan, his invitation to "Go and do likewise." With the spiritual pillars of Lent at our disposal, we set out on a 40-day journey.

- Through **prayer**, we encounter Christ, present in the faces of every member of our human family, so often still walking that long road to Calvary.
- Through **fasting**, we encounter our own obstacles, those things about ourselves that prevent us from loving God and neighbor.
- Through **almsgiving**, we encounter God's love, and share it with our brothers and sisters in need.

This Lent, commit to being a companion on the journey to your neighbor—both near and far.