Bishop’s Endorsement Letter

*Your (arch)bishop can adapt this letter and send it to parishes and schools in your (arch)diocese to invite them to participate in CRS Rice Bowl.*

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are called to love our neighbor. But, like the scholar in the scripture passage, we may find ourselves asking, “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 can be transformative. That’s why I’m inviting your faith community to use CRS Rice Bowl this Lent.

CRS Rice Bowl provides resources to bring Lenten spirituality to life for families and parish and school communities, while continuing to connect Catholics in our (arch)diocese with our brothers and sisters in need around the world.

And this year’s CRS Rice Bowl provides a unique opportunity to connect with the global migration campaign, *Share the Journey*, launched by Pope Francis and the Church last fall.  Through stories, videos and lesson plans, we can include migrants and refugees in our Lenten prayers, and remember families who have been through so much as we fast from food and other activities.

Please be sure to order a CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar for each family in your community. These materials are available in both English and Spanish and are free of charge. You may also visit [**crsricebowl.org**](http://www.crsricebowl.org/) or [**crsplatodearroz.org**](http://www.crsricebowl.org/es/) to find additional resources, including:

* Lenten devotions and prayers
* Reflections for faith-sharing communities and youth ministry groups
* Lesson plans, videos and activity sheets for Catholic school teachers and religious educators
* Ideas for community gatherings and simple Lenten meal events
* A Lenten app that delivers prayers and resources directly to your mobile device

Thank you for inviting families in your faith community to an enriched Lenten journey through CRS Rice Bowl. Together, we will do our part to responding to Christ’s call to build a culture of encounter.

Yours in Christ,

**[Signature]**