

encounter Lent



We are called forth from the desert to encounter resurrection.

This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl reminds us that the journey through the desert ultimately leads to resurrection.



Week 1

Raising a son in the mountains of **GUATEMALA** can be hard, but **NORMA** and her son, Victor, are thriving thanks to health and nutrition classes. Our faith calls us to protect and **RESPECT THE DIGNITY OF LIFE** in all its forms.

ANNET fled violence in South Sudan with her three siblings. Now, she lives in Bidibidi, one of the world's largest refugee settlements, located in **UGANDA**. Our faith calls us to exercise a **PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR**, especially refugees like Annet.



Week 2



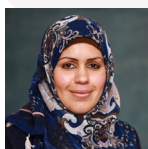
Week 3

The **DHADCROOS** family is rebuilding in **SRI LANKA**. During the Sri Lankan Civil War, they lived as refugees in India. Our faith reminds us that we are **CALLED TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION**—and that means protecting families no matter where they live.

Education is key to **SIERRA LEONE**'s future. That's why **KUMBA** is so passionate about school—she wants to make a difference. Our faith upholds our **RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**: education is a right; we have a responsibility to use it for the common good.



Week 4



Week 5

ONA knows jobs are hard to come by in **GAZA**. So, when she got an internship, she took the money she earned and the confidence she gained to open her own tutoring center. Our faith calls us to respect the **DIGNITY OF WORK AND RIGHTS OF WORKERS**.

Want to learn more? Visit crsricebowl.org or crsplatodearroz.org to download our faith-formation resources, order free materials, watch videos, download our app and so much more!

After the resurrection, when the disciples went forth in all directions, the Lord accompanied them. This is what happens as the result of true encounter.

—Pope Francis, Gaudete et Exsultate, No. 136

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Lent gives us the opportunity to encounter Christ in the desert. With him, we face the temptation to despair in the face of the world's deepest needs, to throw up our hands in defeat. In Jesus' struggle, we find ourselves struggling: we are afraid of not having enough, afraid of not doing enough, afraid of not being enough. But, just as Jesus emerged from the desert fortified to begin his ministry, so too do we emerge from the desert of Lent ready to encounter the needs of the world with the hope of the Resurrection.

Yet, sometimes our fears can be paralyzing. We find ourselves focusing all of our energy inward. We find ourselves doubting if we have enough, if we've done enough, if we are enough—and we are afraid to act. Scripture reminds us time and again: "Be not afraid." In the person of Jesus—and in the countless holy women and men who have followed him—we see the power of giving fearlessly, of sacrificing what we have and what we are for the good of others.

Bolstered by faith, Jesus showed courage when confronted by fear. He did not waver in reaching out to those most in need. And we're called to do the same, trusting that our lives can be ones of fearless encounter pointing to the hope of the Resurrection.

This is where we turn to CRS Rice Bowl. Each day during Lent, we have the opportunity to be inspired by the stories of communities from around the world, to set aside a little of ourselves to make room for a stranger. This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl reminds us that the journey through the desert ultimately leads to resurrection—and that it is our Gospel call to stand with courage, bringing the hope of the Resurrection to a world often beset by hopelessness.

While the temptations of the desert tell us to be afraid, to cling to what we have and look out only for ourselves, the invitation of Lent beckons us forth to encounter the needs of the world through:

- A renewed life of **PRAYER** in God that unites our needs with the needs of the world, through the stories of members of our global human family
- A commitment to **FAST** that reminds us that God is ever faithful and frees us from the fear of not having or being enough
- A readiness to **GIVE ALMS** so as to share what we have with our brothers and sisters around the world.

This Lent, we journey with Christ through fear to fortitude, recognizing God's invitation to reach out beyond ourselves to encounter the needs of all.