Bishop’s Thank You Letter

*Adapt this letter to thank parishes for participating in CRS Rice Bowl.*

Dear Pastor/Parish Administrator/Principal/Parish or School Community,

Thank you for participating in CRS Rice Bowl this Lent. What started as a way for Catholics in the United States to respond to the famine in Africa in 1976 has evolved into a Lenten tradition bringing, us closer together as one church and one human family.

This year**, [insert number of participating communities]** from our (arch)diocese participated in CRS Rice Bowl and raised a total of **[insert total diocesan contribution]** for those living in poverty.

**Seventy-five percent** of the alms given through CRS Rice Bowl will go to Catholic Relief Services to support humanitarian aid projects that bring vital hope and live-saving aid to the poorest of the poor overseas.

**Twenty-five percent** of CRS Rice Bowl donations will stay here in our (arch)diocese to help those suffering from poverty and hunger in our own community.

**[insert details about organization[s] receiving 25 percent.]**

Thank you for making Lenten sacrifices that will lift up our brothers and sisters living in poverty. With a shared spirit of solidarity, we can continue to build a culture of encounter that welcomes and embraces all.

Yours in Christ,

**[signature]**