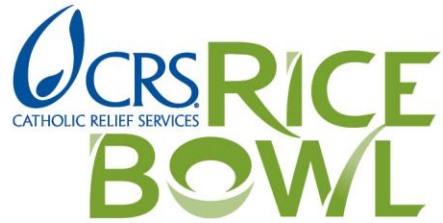


encounter Lent



The CRS Collection and CRS Rice Bowl

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has established two opportunities during the season of Lent for Catholics in the U.S. to participate in the Church’s global mission to serve the poor.

	CRS Collection	CRS Rice Bowl
What is it?	One of twelve national collections managed by USCCB	CRS’ Lenten faith-formation program
Tell me about it.	The CRS Collection is one of the twelve national collections established by the bishops of the United States so that, by combining resources, we can more effectively carry out the global mission of the Church. It offers Catholics a convenient opportunity to help more than 100 million people at home and abroad through a charitable contribution during Mass.	Every Lent, Catholics in the United States do something amazing. Their prayers, fasting and almsgiving become lifesaving aid for millions of individuals living in conditions of poverty around the world. The hungry are fed; the thirsty are given drink; the homeless find shelter. And this has been going on for more than 40 years. That’s the impact of CRS Rice Bowl. That’s how what you give up for Lent can change lives.
When does it happen?	The CRS Collection is taken up in most dioceses on Laetare (or “Rejoice”) Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Lent.	As a tool for your Lenten journey, it encompasses the entire liturgical season, beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Easter Sunday.
Who benefits?	The Catholic Relief Services Collection supports six Catholic organizations (Catholic Relief Services; USCCB’s Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development; USCCB’s Migration and Refugee Services; Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.; USCCB’s Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church; and the Holy Father’s Relief Fund) that advance the international social ministry of the Church.	CRS Rice Bowl contributions support projects that assist those in need both overseas and here in the United States. 75 percent of CRS Rice Bowl contributions are sent to Catholic Relief Services and help fund development projects overseas that help increase and maintain communities’ access to food. 25 percent of the contributions fund local poverty and hunger alleviation programs in dioceses in the United States.
Where do I send my contribution?*	Office of National Collections The Catholic Relief Services Collection P.O. Box 96278 Washington DC 20090-6278	Catholic Relief Services CRS Rice Bowl P.O. Box 17090 Baltimore, Maryland 21297-0303

****If you are a parish or school leader, check with your CRS Diocesan Director to see if your community’s CRS Rice Bowl contributions should be sent to the diocesan office or CRS HQ.***