Sample Email to Schools

*Format this text and send it to schools leaders or directors of religious education to invite their communities to participate in CRS Rice Bowl this Lent.*

God invites us to reach out beyond ourselves and encounter the needs of all. This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl—Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten faith-in-action program—reminds us that the journey through the desert ultimately leads to resurrection, and that it is our Gospel call to share the hope of the Resurrection with those most in need.

We are invited to reflect on how an encounter with our neighbor can be transformative. We will see how our prayers, fasting and alms can support those worldwide who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities. We will learn what it means to be companions on the journey.

CRS Rice Bowl makes it easy for educators to integrate Lenten spirituality and Catholic social teaching into their classrooms. And most importantly, it gives educators tools and tips for bringing Lenten spirituality into the home – where the foundation for a lifetime of faith begins.

We hope you will use CRS Rice Bowl this Lent! Here are some easy ways to get started:

1. Visit **crsricebowl.org/schools** to find all the Lenten resources available for Catholic school teachers and parish religious educators, including lesson plans and activity sheets.
2. Order FREE English or Spanish materials online (**crsricebowl.org/order**) or by calling 1-800-222-0025.
* **Order CRS Rice Bowls (one per student)** – these cardboard bowls are used to collect each family’s Lenten alms. Each CRS Rice Bowl comes with a Lenten calendar with a reflection for each day of Lent that families can do together.
* **Order CRS Rice Bowl Educator’s Guides** – these guides are for teachers/religious educators who would like to bring Lenten spirituality or Catholic social teaching into their 1st-8th grade classrooms.
1. **Plan a CRS Rice Bowl Kickoff Event** to distribute CRS Rice Bowls to students and prayerfully begin Lent. You can use the Prayer Service to Begin Lent (found in the Educator’s Guide) as a template.

If you have any questions about CRS Rice Bowl, please contact me or crsricebowl@crs.org.

Thank you for considering inviting CRS Rice Bowl to be a part of your students’ faith journey this Lent!

**[signature]**