Sample Email/Letter to Parishes

*Format this text and send it to parish leaders to invite their communities to participate in CRS Rice Bowl this Lent.*

With Lent comes the call of God to reflect on our lives and redirect them toward the life in fullness. During this liturgical season, through CRS Rice Bowl—Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program—we will journey to Guatemala, Bangladesh and Rwanda to meet our sisters and brothers and, in them, Christ.

We will witness the work of God in his people and how those most in need face many daily challenges to have a dignified life. Through CRS Rice Bowl stories, videos and lesson plans, we will discover how our faith calls us to serve. We will also see how your contributions and those of other faith communities make it possible for people in need to empower themselves and take control of their lives by participating in the various programs that CRS offers.

Join more than 14,000 faith communities in 180 dioceses across the U.S. in prayer, fasting and almsgiving this Lent. Together, we will serve our sisters and brothers most in need around the world while forming families and faith communities to be missionary disciples.

Here are some easy ways to get started:

1. Order FREE English or Spanish materials online at **crsricebowl.org/order** or by calling **1-800-222-0025**.
* **Order CRS Rice Bowls (one per household)**. These cardboard bowls are used to collect each family’s Lenten alms. Each CRS Rice Bowl comes with a Lenten calendar with daily reflections that families can read together.
1. Visit **crsricebowl.org/parishes** for resources to help integrate CRS Rice Bowl into your faith community, including:
* The “How to Kick off CRS Rice Bowl” video.
* Details for creating a CRS Rice Bowl community giving page to easily collect your parish’s CRS Rice Bowl gifts online.
* Bulletin and pulpit announcements and other tools to communicate about CRS Rice Bowl with your community throughout Lent.

1. **Plan a time to distribute CRS Rice Bowls to each member of your parish community.** Your pastor can lead the Prayer to Begin Lent—found at **crsricebowl.org/parishes**—to help your community begin their Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Consider asking students in your parish to distribute CRS Rice Bowls after Mass.
* **If your parish prefers a virtual option**, designate a date and time for families to pick up their CRS Rice Bowls or direct them to **crsricebowl.org/families** to print their own DIY Rice Bowl label. Visit **crsricebowl.org/dioceses** for more virtual engagement tips.

If you have any questions about CRS Rice Bowl, please contact me at [insert information] or crsricebowl@crs.org.

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

**[Signature]**