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 a life in fullness with Christ. During this liturgical season, through CRS Rice Bowl—Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program—we will journey to Honduras, the Philippines and Kenya to meet our sisters and brothers and, in them, Christ.

We will witness the work of God in his people and how our sisters and brothers 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 experiencing hunger and malnutrition—made worse by climate—to empower themselves and take control of their lives by participating in the various programs that CRS offers.

Join nearly 13,000 faith communities in 180 dioceses across the U.S. in prayer, fasting and almsgiving this Lent. Together, we will serve our sisters and brothers 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 Rice Bowls (one per household)**. These cardboard bowls are used to collect each family’s alms. Each Rice Bowl comes with a 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 community giving page to easily collect your parish’s gifts online.
* Bulletin and pulpit announcements and other tools to communicate about CRS Rice Bowl with your community throughout these 40 days.

1. **Plan a time to distribute 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 journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Consider asking students in your parish to distribute 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]**