

# FOR LENT FOR LIFE

February 8, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

God calls each of us to a loving relationship with him. During Lent, we focus in an intentional way on turning away from sin and toward God to grow in this love. The Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help us do this. CRS Rice Bowl—Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program—invites us to practice these pillars while reflecting on the needs of our sisters and brothers and how we can respond in love to support them.

This year, journey with CRS to Honduras, the Philippines and Kenya to learn about the root causes of hunger and how families—with the support of faith communities like yours—are making sure they have nutritious food to thrive. Through stories, videos and lesson plans, your community will learn about our Gospel call to care for our common home so we can respond to global issues such as hunger and malnutrition and push back on climate change.

CRS Rice Bowl provides resources to bring Lenten spirituality to life for families, parishes and school communities while continuing to connect Catholics in our Archdiocese with our global human family. I encourage you to order a CRS Rice Bowl poster to display in your communal space and enough Rice Bowls with Lenten calendars for each family in your community. These **free** materials are available in English and Spanish. **Contact the Office of Social Justice and Respect Life, 505-831-8205 or [mgarcia@archdiosf.org](mailto:mgarcia@archdiosf.org), to order your materials.** You may also visit [crsricebowl.org](https://crsricebowl.org) or [crsplatodearroz.org](https://crsplatodearroz.org) to find additional resources, including:

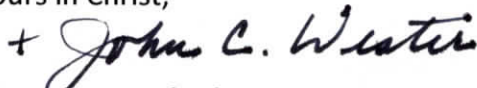
- Devotions, like the Stations of the Cross, and prayers.
- Lesson plans, videos and activity sheets for Catholic school teachers and religious educators.
- Ideas for in-person or virtual community gatherings and simple Lenten meal events.

Remember that 25% of what the Archdiocese raises goes directly to local organizations that serve those who are hungry or homeless through the Rice Bowl local grant program. See enclosed **"Where Does Our Lenten Rice Bowl Money Go?"**

One more item that might help is the enclosed **CRS Rice Bowl and the CRS Collection** to clarify the difference between these two Lenten efforts.

Thank you for inviting families in your faith community to join us on an enriched season through CRS Rice Bowl. Together, we can respond to Christ's call to help those in need and ensure everyone reaches his or her God-given potential.

Yours in Christ,



**Most Reverend John C. Wester**  
Archbishop of Santa Fe

**Encl: CRS Rice Bowl and CRS Collection, Where Does Our Lenten Rice Bowl Money Go?**