Bishop’s Endorsement Letter

*Your (arch)bishop can adapt this letter and send it to parishes and schools in your (arch)diocese to invite them to participate in*

*CRS Rice Bowl.*

Dear Friends in Christ,

During Lent, we’re invited to deepen our relationship and unite our hearts more fully with God and with one another. We can do this in an intentional way through the Catholic tradition of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. CRS Rice Bowl—Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten faith-in-action program—invites us to encounter God and our global family by practicing these Lenten pillars.

This year, CRS Rice Bowl celebrates its 50th anniversary. This is the time for us to recommit to our global family as we learn about communities in Nigeria, Guatemala and Bangladesh. At this very moment, millions of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers are facing life-threatening levels of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. At the root of this crisis is a perfect storm of poverty, climate change, conflict and inequality. There is no one solution to breaking the cycle of hunger—but we can do our part through CRS Rice Bowl by answering Jesus’ invitation us to share bread for life with our sisters and brothers during Lent—so all may live with dignity. **Seventy-five percent of alms collected through CRS Rice Bowl supports CRS programs around the world. Twenty-five percent stays here in our diocese to help fight hunger and poverty.**

Nearly 13,000 faith communities in 180 dioceses across the U.S. are committed to practicing the traditional Lenten pillars of spirituality to help our global family with CRS Rice Bowl. Please consider committing to supporting our sisters and brothers around the world while forming families and faith communities to be missionary disciples.

CRS Rice Bowl provides resources to bring Lenten spirituality to life for families, parishes and school communities. 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. You may also visit [**crsricebowl.org**](http://www.crsricebowl.org/) or [**crsplatodearroz.org**](http://www.crsricebowl.org/es/) 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 community gatherings and simple Lenten meal events.

Thank you for inviting families in your faith community to join us for an enriching Lenten journey through CRS Rice Bowl. Together, we can respond to Christ’s call to help people in need and ensure everyone reaches his or her God-given potential.

Yours in Christ,

**[Signature]**