Sample Email/Letter to Schools

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

This Lent, your school community is invited to participate in CRS Rice Bowl as Catholic Relief Services celebrates 50 years of the program. CRS Rice Bowl started in Allentown, Pennsylvania, by parishioners to help families facing famine in The Sahel region of Africa. Shortly after, it was adopted by the United States bishops and made an official program of CRS.

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 for every community around the world—but we can do our part through CRS Rice Bowl by answering Jesus’ invitation to us to share bread for life with our sisters and brothers during Lent—so all may live with dignity.

Through CRS Rice Bowl, your school community will learn about families in Nigeria, Guatemala and Bangladesh who are building resilience in the face of adversity and helping their communities live healthy lives. CRS Rice Bowl offers a variety of stories, videos and lesson plans so you can help your community discover how our faith calls us to serve our global family.

CRS Rice Bowl makes it easy for educators to integrate Lenten spirituality and Catholic teaching into their classrooms. It also gives them tools and tips to encourage students to share it at home—where the foundation for a lifetime of faith begins.

Here are some easy ways to get started:

1. Visit **crsricebowl.org/1-8** to find resources for Catholic school teachers and parish religious educators, including lesson plans and activity sheets. Teachers and religious educatorscan use these resources to go deeper into the pillars of Lent, global solidarity and Catholic teaching.
2. Order FREE English or Spanish rice bowls online at **crsricebowl.org/order** or by calling
**1-800-222-0025**. Order one rice bowl per family. 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. Posters are also available to order and post in your school.
3. **Plan a kickoff event** to distribute rice bowls to students and prayerfully begin this holy season. You can use the Prayer to Begin Lent resource (found at **crsricebowl.org/1-8**) as a template.

If you have any questions about CRS Rice Bowl, please contact me at [insert information] or email

crsricebowl@crs.org.

Thank you for inviting your students to encounter God and our global family this Lent through CRS Rice Bowl!

 **[Signature]**