



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Annual CRS Rice Bowl program kicks-off with Lent, aids local and global community

GREEN BAY, Wis. (Feb. 13, 2018) – This Lent marks the 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of CRS Rice Bowl, the largest and longest-running Lenten program in the United States. Known for its characteristic “rice bowl,” millions of Catholics have used this initiative to respond to the struggles of people around the world who cannot meet their basic needs.

“Through the generous donations of people in the Diocese of Green Bay to CRS Rice Bowl, lives of the poor are being changed locally and throughout the world,” said Eric Weydt, diocesan Catholic Social Justice Coordinator. “I think Pope Francis said it best when he remarked, ‘In imitation of our Master, we Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it.’”

Seventy-five percent of the CRS Rice Bowl donations go toward supporting programs in 93 countries overseas, while twenty-five percent remain in the diocese where they were given and are distributed through local grants. Religious (Catholic and non-Catholic) and secular organizations based in counties within the Diocese of Green Bay are encouraged to apply for these grants. CRS Rice Bowl funds projects that benefit immigrant or refugee populations in northeastern Wisconsin who are struggling to meet their basic material needs (such as food, shelter, healthcare, literacy and counseling services.)

The program has expanded over the years to provide individuals, families, educators, and churches with Lenten resources and activities in English and Spanish for all ages. Through their website, active social media channels, and phone app, they provide free downloads, printable activities, engaging videos, lesson plans, reflections, recipes and more. To donate and to learn more about CRS Rice Bowl visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) or download the app from the iTunes or Google Play stores.

Applications for CRS Rice Bowl grants will be accepted from February 14 to March 30, 2018. Grant criteria and application forms are available for [download](#). You may also receive a hard copy by contacting Eric Weydt, Catholic Social Justice Coordinator, at (920) 272-8344 or email [EWeydt@gbdioc.org](mailto:EWeydt@gbdioc.org). To view last year’s CRS Rice Bowl grant award winners, please view our [July 18, 2017, press release](#).

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**Who we are:** As friends and followers of Jesus, the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay is devoted to fostering households and communities of discipleship through the mission and ministry of the Catholic Church. We are missionary disciples striving to lead all people to the Kingdom of God. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 324,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

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*Celebrating 150 years of making disciples in the Diocese of Green Bay.*