

Dear Parish Leaders,

God invites us to reach out beyond ourselves and encounter the needs of all. This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl—Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program—invites us to reflect on the Gospel story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 with just a few loaves and fishes and to consider the needs of the hungry around the world.

Journey with CRS to Honduras, Kenya and Vietnam to meet three girls and their families who are thriving with the support of CRS and faith communities like yours. Through stories, videos and lesson plans, your community will learn about the global issue of hunger and malnutrition and our Gospel call to feed the hungry.

Join more than 14,000 faith communities in 180 dioceses across the U.S. in prayer, fasting and almsgiving this Lent. Together, we will serve our brothers and sisters most in need around the world while forming families and faith communities to be missionary disciples.

Here are some easy ways to get started:

1. Watch "How to Kick off CRS Rice Bowl" for 5 easy steps to getting CRS Rice Bowl started in your parish (check it out at [crsricebowl.org/parishes](http://crsricebowl.org/parishes)).
  - Download **the Coordinator's Guide** which contains resources to help integrate CRS Rice Bowl into your faith community.
2. Order FREE English or Spanish materials online at [crsricebowl.org/order](http://crsricebowl.org/order) or by calling 1-800-222-0025.
  - **Order CRS Rice Bowls (one per household).** These cardboard bowls are used to collect each family's Lenten alms. Each CRS Rice Bowl comes with a Lenten calendar with a reflection for each day of Lent which families can read together.
3. **Plan a time to distribute CRS Rice Bowls to each member of your parish community.** Your pastor can bless the CRS Rice Bowls during Mass (find a sample blessing in the Coordinator's Guide). Consider asking students in your parish to distribute CRS Rice Bowls after Mass.

If you have any questions about CRS Rice Bowl, please contact me at [eweydt@gbdioc.org](mailto:eweydt@gbdioc.org) or [crsricebowl@crs.org](mailto:crsricebowl@crs.org).

Thank you for considering CRS Rice Bowl as a part of your parishioners' faith journey!

God Bless,

*Eric Weydt*

Catholic Social Justice Coordinator