



DIOCESE OF BOISE

February 5, 2020

Dear Parishes of the Diocese of Boise,

As Lent approaches, we have the opportunity to be inspired by the stories of communities from around the world, to set aside a little of ourselves to make room for a stranger. This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl reminds us that the journey through the desert ultimately leads to resurrection—and that it is our Gospel call to stand with courage, bringing the hope of the Resurrection to a world often beset by hopelessness.

Parishes in the Diocese have received materials in preparation for the annual Rice Bowl Campaign from Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Rice Bowl offers simple, yet powerful, ways for parishes, schools, and families to bring Lenten spirituality to life. By participating in the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving through CRS Rice Bowl, U.S. Catholics are making a positive difference in the lives of those who are most in need. According to CRS, setting aside a dollar a day in their Lenten Rice Bowl has an enormous, tangible effect. One dollar a day for the 40 days of Lent means three months of clean water for four families; two years of seed for a farmer; one month of food for a family.

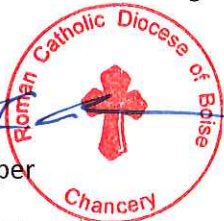

75% of donations collected by the Diocese through Rice Bowl program go directly to CRS to help fund development programs designed to increase food security around the world. These projects focus on initiatives that bring clean water, small enterprise development, agricultural expertise, educational opportunities, and child health programs to the poor in more than 40 countries.

25% of Rice Bowl donations collected by the Diocese are used to support local hunger, poverty, and hardship relief efforts in communities right here in Idaho through the Diocesan Rice Bowl Grant Program. Past grant recipients have included parish and community based food banks across the state to help local communities; Catholic Charities of Idaho and a program that helped families buy nutritious baby formula.

Please utilize the FREE English or Spanish materials sent to you and the attached English or Spanish Coordinator's Guide. For more resources, please go to <https://www.crsricebowl.org/parishes>

If you need any more resources or have any questions about CRS Rice Bowl, please contact CRS at crsricebowl@crs.org or 1-800-222-0025.

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



Mark Raper

Chancellor

CRS Diocesan Director

