



February 7, 2022

Dear Monsignor, Father, or Principal,

Each Lent, the Church calls us to conversion through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Many people in our Diocese choose to bring these three aspects of Lenten observance to life through Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) Rice Bowl. This program helps to provide families around the world with the tools they need to rise above poverty and provide for themselves.

CRS offers Rice Bowl as a resource to bring Lenten spirituality to life for families, parishes, and school communities. This Lent I encourage you to promote the use of the CRS Rice Bowls in your parish and among your students.

Sixty percent of all Rice Bowl contributions support CRS' humanitarian and development programs overseas, providing life-saving assistance and hope to our sisters and brothers around the world. The remaining forty percent stays in our diocese to support local hunger and poverty prevention programs. Your 2021 contributions assisted over 25 organizations including food pantries and soup kitchens. Thank you for your generosity.

There are many resources that you can access for your parish or school on the following website: www.crsricebowl.org. CRS has worked to adapt their materials to fit our virtual needs.

Thank you for inviting families in your parish or school to an enriched Lenten journey through CRS Rice Bowl. Should you require any support in utilizing the resources, please contact Patrice Swick, director of the Social Justice and Life Office at 814-824-1254 or pswick@ErieRCD.org.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

