



February 3, 2025

Dear Monsignor, Father, or Principal:

During Lent, we are invited to deepen our relationship and unite our hearts more fully with God and with one another. We can do this in an intentional way through the Catholic tradition of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. CRS Rice Bowl—Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program—invites us to encounter God and our global family by practicing these Lenten pillars.

This year, CRS Rice Bowl celebrates its 50th anniversary. 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, but we can answer Jesus' invitation to share with our sisters and brothers during Lent by participating in CRS Rice Bowl.

Sixty percent of alms collected through CRS Rice Bowl supports CRS programs around the world. Forty percent stays here in our diocese to help fight hunger and poverty. Your 2024 contributions assisted over 25 organizations including food pantries and soup kitchens in the diocese. Thank you for your generosity.

CRS Rice Bowl provides free resources in English and Spanish to bring Lenten spirituality to life for families, parishes and school communities. You may visit crsricebowl.org or crsplatodearroz.org to find these additional resources.

Thank you for inviting families in your faith community to join us for an enriching Lenten journey through CRS Rice Bowl. Together, we can respond to Christ's call to help people in need and ensure everyone reaches his or her God-given potential. Should you require any support in utilizing the resources, please contact Elizabeth Slaby, Director of the Office of Social Justice and Life at eslaby@ccincerie.org.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

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

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