



February 18, 2026

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.

I invite you to make CRS Rice Bowl, a USCCB established faith-in-action program, a part of your community's Lenten journey this year. The program highlights how families around the world and in our own local communities are working hard to provide nutritious food for their children, build sustainable livelihoods and create healthy and thriving futures.

Sixty percent of alms collected through CRS Rice Bowl supports CRS programs around the world. Forty percent stay here in our diocese to help fight hunger and poverty. Your 2025 contributions assisted 30 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.

- Devotions, like the Stations of the Cross, and prayers.
- Lesson plans, videos and activity sheets for Catholic school teachers and religious educators.
- Ideas for in-person or virtual community gatherings and simple Lenten meal events.

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.

Scan to give



Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

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

