



January 30, 2023

Dear Monsignor, Father, or Principal:

During Lent, we focus in an intentional way on turning away from sin and toward God to grow in his love. The Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help us do this. CRS Rice Bowl – Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten faith-in-action program – is a way to invite your parishioners and school families to practice these pillars while reflecting on the needs of our sisters and brothers and how we can respond in love to support them.

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. The 2022 contributions of your parishes and schools assisted over 25 organizations including food pantries and soup kitchens. Thank you for your generosity.

CRS Rice Bowl provides resources to bring Lenten spirituality to life for families, parishes and school communities while continuing to connect Catholics in our diocese with our global human family. I encourage you to order a CRS Rice Bowl poster to display in your communal space and enough Rice Bowls with Lenten calendars for each family in your community. These free materials are available in English and Spanish. You may also visit crsricebowl.org to find additional resources, such as Stations of the Cross and lesson plans. Should you require any support in utilizing them, please contact Patrice Swick, director of the Social Justice and Life Office at pswick@ErieRCD.org.

Thank you for inviting families in your faith community to join us on an enriched season through CRS Rice Bowl. Together, we can respond to Christ’s call to help those in need and ensure everyone reaches his or her God-given potential.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

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