



"For I was hungry and you gave me food..." Mt 25:35

ASH WEDNESDAY COLLECTION WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022

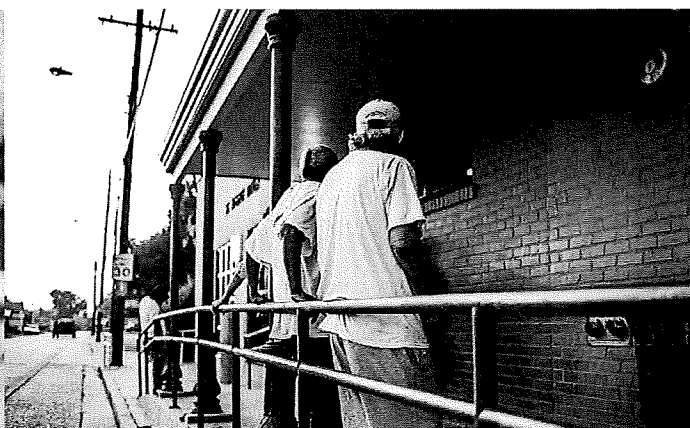
As a diocese, we will soon participate in the Ash Wednesday collection for Catholic Charities of Acadiana. I believe that you share our concern for those who are experiencing poverty, hunger, and homelessness in our community. We believe in ensuring that basic human needs are met in our community. We believe that any individual experiencing hunger presents an emergency, one where our faith compels us to respond. With this core belief in mind, Catholic Charities of Acadiana operates St. Joseph Diner and FoodNet Food Bank.

Through both of these programs, Catholic Charities of Acadiana has responded with compassion to thousands of families and individuals who are experiencing hunger and food insecurity throughout the eight civil parishes of the Diocese of Lafayette.

St. Joseph Diner prepared and distributed over 400,000 meals in just the last year, while FoodNet Food Bank assisted thousands of our neighbors, distributing over 26,000 supplemental food bags.

As facilitators of compassion, we want to be in a position to say "yes," responding to our neighbors through this prolonged crisis. **Your support of the Ash Wednesday second collection makes a significant difference for those who are experiencing hunger in our community.**

Together, we can work to provide for those who are experiencing hunger and care for the sacred gift of all human life, especially the most vulnerable.



Please give generously to the Ash Wednesday collection to support Catholic Charities of Acadiana in their mission to provide for those who are experiencing hunger and food insecurity in our community.

**Give online now by visiting give.classy.org/ashwednesday
or by scanning the code.**





BUILDING

Our Mission to the Missions

The Black and Indian Mission Collection (BIMC) exists to help diocesan communities to build up the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American, and Alaska Native people of God.

Every year, it is the amazing generosity of Catholic faithful just like you who enable the Black and Indian Mission Office to support the following important priorities:

Enlivening Parish Life & Catechesis

Grant funds from the BIMC enables us to support parish-based catechetical programs. We help form and train catechists who will form children to be disciples of Jesus in the world and get bibles and catechisms in kids' hands so they can learn the ways of the Lord and take their place around His altar.



Helping Educators Reach Kids

With your contribution to the BIMC, you will help to support good teachers to help African American and Native American children learn. In 2019, your generous donations reached over 5,000 students in more than 400 schools and parishes across the United States.



Empowering Evangelizers

BIMC grant funds help African American and Native American ministries to sponsor events and formation that encourage living the Christian life in culturally appropriate ways. Religious sisters shown here, serve Native American Catholics spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Encouraging Vocations

We need men and women to answer the call to the consecrated life and offer their witness as radical disciples of Jesus Christ. We need priests in order to have the Eucharist! Supporting the BIMC enables us to help encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life in diocesan communities across the country.



BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION COLLECTION
www.blackandindianmission.org



FOR LENT FOR LIFE

Dear Families,

This Lent, our community will participate in CRS Rice Bowl, a program that invites us to reflect on the challenges of global hunger—and our Gospel call to care for our global human family.

CRS Rice Bowl gives us a wonderful opportunity to encounter different people from around the world, know more about their lives and recognize them as our sisters and brothers. We will see how, through our **prayer**, we encounter Jesus, who is present in the face of every member of our human family. When we **fast**, we encounter the obstacles that prevent us from fully loving God and our neighbor. And when we **give alms**, we share in solidarity with those who need our support.

By joining our prayers, fasts and alms this Lent with those of other parishes and Catholic schools in the United States, we will help millions of women, men and children around the world whose economic challenges have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Together as a Church, through CRS Rice Bowl, we can contribute to the efforts of those who seek to build a better world for themselves and their communities.

CRS Rice Bowl provides many resources for daily reflection throughout the liturgical season. Consider these suggestions in your family's Lenten plan:

- Use your CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar each day to guide your prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- Read the Stories of Hope and daily reflections to inspire your Lenten journey.
- Use the CRS Rice Bowl recipes to prepare simple, meatless meals on the Fridays of Lent to eat in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world.
- Visit crsricebowl.org to watch videos of the people and communities you support through your Lenten gifts to CRS Rice Bowl.

Your sacrifices during this holy season have the power to change lives by providing enough nutritious food for families to thrive. And by practicing the pillars of Lent through CRS Rice Bowl, I hope both your faith and connection to our one human family deepens.

CRS Rice Bowls will be collected at the end of Lent, so stay tuned to learn more. Thank you for participating in CRS Rice Bowl with your family.

Sincerely,

