



"you did for me" Mt 25:35



Catholic
Charities
of Acadiana

ASH WEDNESDAY COLLECTION Wednesday, March 5

As a diocese, we will soon participate in an Ash Wednesday collection for Catholic Charities of Acadiana (**not affiliated** with the national Catholic Charities). This year's collection focuses on serving our neighbors experiencing hunger and homelessness.

Catholic Charities of Acadiana operates Saint Joseph Emergency Shelter, Saint Joseph Diner, and FoodNet Food Bank. Through these core programs, Catholic Charities of Acadiana responds compassionately to thousands who experience hunger and homelessness throughout the eight civil parishes of the Diocese of Lafayette.

Last year, Catholic Charities of Acadiana served 545 individuals through its homeless shelters, successfully transitioning 194 of our neighbors back to permanent housing. Saint Joseph Diner prepared and distributed over 225,988 warm meals, while FoodNet Food Bank distributed over 32,227 supplemental food bags to our neighbors in need through partner pantries across the diocese.

Our emergency homeless shelters, Saint Joseph Diner, and FoodNet Food Bank are largely donor-funded programs. Your generous support of the Ash Wednesday Second Collection will help us to provide immediate relief to a neighbor in our community who is in crisis and has nowhere else to turn.

Please give generously to the Ash Wednesday collection supporting Catholic Charities of Acadiana's mission to provide for those experiencing hunger and homelessness in our community.

Make an impact today by visiting
give.classy.org/Lent2025 or by scanning the code.



FOR LENT FOR LIFE

Dear Families,

This Lent, our community will participate in CRS Rice Bowl as Catholic Relief Services celebrates 50 years of the program. CRS Rice Bowl started in Allentown, Pennsylvania, by parishioners to help families facing famine in The Sahel region of Africa. Shortly after, it was adopted by the United States bishops and made an official program of CRS.

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 for every community around the world—but we can do our part through CRS Rice Bowl by answering Jesus' invitation us to share bread for life with our sisters and brothers during Lent—so all may live with dignity.

Throughout these 40 days, we will learn about families in Nigeria, Guatemala and Bangladesh who are building resilience in the face of adversity and helping their community live healthy lives. This is all possible because of our donations of Lenten alms to CRS Rice Bowl. We also help our local community through the program because 25% of every donation stays in our diocese to fight hunger and poverty.

CRS Rice Bowl provides 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.
- Visit crsricebowl.org to read weekly Stories of Hope and watch the accompanying videos.
- Use the CRS Rice Bowl recipes from crsricebowl.org/recipe to prepare simple, meatless meals on the Fridays of Lent to eat in solidarity with our global family.

During this holy season, may your Lenten journey be a transformative and enriching experience as you put your faith into action for our sisters and brothers experiencing the greatest need.

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

Sincerely,

