

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.

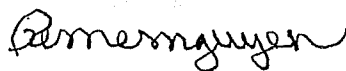
CRS Rice Bowl provides many resources for daily reflection throughout the liturgical season. Consider these suggestions in your family's Lenten plan:

- 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,





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

ASH WEDNESDAY COLLECTION Wednesday, February 22, 2023

As a diocese, we will soon participate in an Ash Wednesday collection for Catholic Charities of Acadiana. The focus of this year's collection is preventing hunger.

Catholic Charities of Acadiana receives over 9,000 phone calls per month from our neighbors in Acadiana who are in crisis. Too many of these calls for assistance are from families and individuals experiencing hunger.

We believe that hunger is 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 core programs, Catholic Charities of Acadiana responds with compassion to thousands who experience hunger and food

insecurity throughout the eight civil parishes of the Diocese of Lafayette.

Just last year, St. Joseph Diner prepared and distributed over 145,000 meals, while FoodNet Food Bank assisted thousands of our neighbors, distributing over 39,000 supplemental food bags.

St. Joseph Diner and FoodNet Food Bank are 100% donor-funded programs. Your generous support of the *Ash Wednesday collection* will help us purchase food and provide immediate relief to someone in our community.

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



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

