Rice Bowl is the official Lenten faith formation program of the U.S. Bishops. It focuses on fasting, praying, learning and giving as a way to be in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need. CRS Rice Bowl contributions support projects for the poor both overseas and here in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. 25% of the contributions fund local poverty and hunger alleviation programs in dioceses across the United States.

From the Rice Bowl money collected from 75 parishes, schools, and other organizations during Lent 2022, $15,474.13 went to the following 13 local organizations that work to alleviate hunger and homelessness in our Archdiocese:

1. **St. John the Baptist Lunch Kitchen—Santa Fe** operates three days a week. They served about 6,000 meals over the last 12 months. It is operated by volunteers and supported by the parish’s stewardship. They are a distribution point for food commodities to those in need.

2. **Villa Therese Catholic Clinic—Santa Fe** provides free services to the most vulnerable populations: the undocumented, immigrant, and homeless families. The Blessing Bag and MoGro Program helps to reconnect with their patients as well as seek out additional families who may need support from the clinic. Each bag contains toiletries, masks and produce from local farms. The clinic is supported by the Catholic parishes and schools in Santa Fe.

3. **Socorro Storehouse—Socorro** provides food bags for the homeless that contain ready to eat foods that do not require cooking or refrigeration. Each bag contains 3 to 4 ready to eat meals, emergency essential needs, toiletries, household goods, and cleaning supplies. Originally created by San Miguel in 2002 as an outreach, today the Storehouse is independent of San Miguel Mission, however, still receives significant support from the parish.

4. **Puerto Seguro—Socorro** provides meals and ready to eat foods that are accessible to people who live outside. This past year over 700 people have been helped. San Miguel Parish supports Puerto Seguro with volunteer support, financial assistance, and spiritual support.

5. **St. Elizabeth Shelter, Good Samaritan Fund—Santa Fe** makes small disbursements, to help homeless individuals overcome obstacles to their making progress to improve the quality of their lives. St. Elizabeth has assisted more than 1,200 people last year. Local parishes in Santa Fe help with financial support, food, and donations.

6. **Magdalena Samaritan House—Magdalena** provides weekly food bags with balanced nutrition to approximately 60 families/individuals who need assistance. Magdalena Samaritan House receives financial help from San Miguel Catholic Church.

7. **St. Teresa of Calcutta Soup and Blessing—Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish** has served about 150-175 meals a week since July 2022 with both sit down and “take-out” meals. The numbers of those being served have risen steadily and consistently since the time the soup kitchen opened. It is supported by parish donations and community donors.

8. **Our Lady of Guadalupe, Food Pantry—Taos** supports local families of the community who are in need of food. The food pantry is a ministry at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish.

9. **St. Felix Pantry—Rio Rancho** feeds those in need. In the last calendar year, 50,000 individuals have been served. St. Felix Pantry receives financial support and food donations from several local parishes.

10. **St. Vincent de Paul, Holy Family—Albuquerque** helps provide a nutrient balanced diet to the hungry in the area. In fiscal year 2022, over 825 food boxes were distributed to hungry families in Albuquerque’s south valley.

11. **The Food Depot—Santa Fe** is charged with providing accessible hunger-relief services to a diverse range of people experiencing food insecurity across nine counties in northern New Mexico. It partners with 10 parishes throughout the area including parishes in Española, Mora, Raton, Taos, Santa Fe, Okay Owingeh, and Las Vegas.

12. **St. Patrick-St. Joseph—Raton** provides nutritional meals and food staples for parishioners, Raton residents, and the homeless and transient population seeking help.

13. **St. Vincent de Paul, St. Helen—Portales** helps those in need at the parish and in the community with food, clothing and utilities.

If you know organizations that qualify for a Rice Bowl grant, or want to apply, contact my office for an application. Applications are due in Office of Social Justice and Respect Life by November 1 each year. Organizations must be working to alleviate hunger or homelessness within the boundaries of the Archdiocese, be a non-profit and be connected to, supported by or collaborating with a Catholic parish, school or Archdiocesan entity. Contact the Office of Social Justice and Respect Life, 505-831-8205 or aavellone@archdiocsl.org for an application.