

# It's Rice Bowl Time!



## From the St. Isidore Cluster Social Justice Committee

As countries around the world reduce their funding for international humanitarian aid and hunger continues to rise, **Catholic Relief Services** (CRS) invites Catholics across the United States to pray, fast and give alms through its annual Lenten program, CRS Rice Bowl, which starts Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday.

Ongoing conflicts, extreme weather, and persistent inflation are driving up food prices, pushing more families into hunger. According to the **United Nations**, nearly **700 million people worldwide** face hunger today, just as cuts to humanitarian aid are leaving millions with fewer lifelines. This dangerous combination makes faith communities and programs like CRS Rice Bowl more critical than ever.

“The past year has been incredibly difficult for so many families around the world,” said Sean Callahan, CRS’ president and CEO. “We’re seeing more people go hungry just as the resources available to help them are being reduced. CRS Rice Bowl offers Catholics in the U.S. a meaningful way to respond and affirm that no one is forgotten.”

Rooted in Catholic social teaching and the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, CRS Rice Bowl invites participants to live the principle of solidarity—recognizing that all people are part of one human family. Through the program, Catholics support lifesaving work overseas while also helping fund local hunger-relief efforts in dioceses across the United States, responding with compassion and generosity to those most in need.

Donations to CRS Rice Bowl support CRS programs around the world that address hunger and poverty by tackling their root causes. In addition, 25% of funds collected remain in local dioceses to support hunger-relief efforts in communities across the United States. As many families nationwide struggle with rising costs of living, these local investments are more vital than ever.

“As Catholics, we are called to serve those most in need, especially when the challenges feel overwhelming,” Callahan said. “Right now, families everywhere are feeling the strain of rising costs, no matter where they live. CRS Rice Bowl offers Catholics in the United States a tangible way to live out their Lenten almsgiving, transforming small, personal sacrifices, like skipping a weekly coffee, into a greater impact for families facing hunger.”

**This year, at St Isidore Cluster, we have set a Rice Bowl goal of \$1,000. Please help us meet this goal by collecting money in your Rice Bowl, and/or by leaving a donation at our team’s webpage by holding your cellphone camera over the code above.**