February 2023

My Dear Friends in Christ,

During Lent, we prepare for Christ’s passion and resurrection by making small and large sacrifices, traditionally in the form of prayer, fasting, and giving. Each year, the parishes that make up the Diocese of Superior participate in Operation Rice Bowl and the Black and Indian Mission Collection, two major Lenten initiatives vital to people within our Diocese and even beyond.

We have come through some very challenging times, but recovery can be slower for those on the periphery. I encourage you and your family to participate in Operation Rice Bowl beginning Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023, and continuing throughout Lent. Operation Rice Bowl provides the resources to bring Lenten spirituality to life for families, parish, and school communities while connecting Catholics in the Diocese of Superior with our brothers and sisters in need around the world. 75% of your gifts through Operation Rice Bowl support relief work in 100 countries. 25% remains within our diocese. Contact your parish to pick up a Rice Bowl for your Lenten gifts or visit crsricebowl.org to view videos of the people and communities you support through your Lenten gifts to Operation Rice Bowl and see special Lenten Recipes.

I also invite you to support the Black and Indian Mission Collection on the first weekend of Lent, February 26, 2023. Financial support for the Black and Indian Mission Collection is integral in helping to sustain evangelization and education efforts for American Indians in our Diocese and throughout the United States. Beginning with our baptism we are all missionaries for Christ Jesus. The Diocese of Superior has religious education programs and Catholic elementary schools that rely on grants from the collection each year. Contributing to the collection during the first weekend of Lent provides an opportunity for all Catholics to actively participate in local evangelization programs. This past year our Diocese received a grant for $50,000 that provided support for two schools and six parishes, made possible through our local participation in the collection.

I ask everyone in the Diocese of Superior to be as generous as possible to Operation Rice Bowl and the Black and Indian Mission Collection this Lent. Together, let us help those across the globe overcome hardships and hunger as well as join in the work of the missionaries across the country to support their evangelization efforts.

With warmest personal regards and continuing prayer, I am

Gratefully yours in the Lord,

Most Rev. James P. Powers

Bishop of Superior