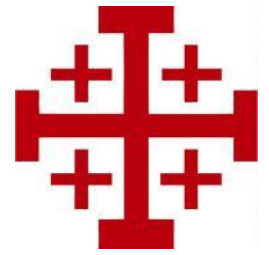


PASTOR'S CORNER

ENCOUNTER LENT



This year Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl celebrates its 42nd anniversary. CRS Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services' faith-in-action program for parishes, schools, and families. This year's theme of CRS Rice Bowl is: Encounter Lent: Encounter ourselves. Encounter our neighbors. Encounter our God. This theme is inspired by a quote by our Holy Father, Pope Francis: "The Good News is no mere matter of words... It is about leaving ourselves behind and encountering others." As we, the global Church, prepare for this holy season of Lent, it is especially appropriate to come together in prayer, as a family, reflecting on the role we each have to play in building up God's one human family.

Please consider these suggestions in shaping your own family's Lenten plan: Use your CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar daily to guide your Lenten prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. As a family, read the Stories of Hope and daily reflections to inspire your Lenten journey—and guide your Lenten almsgiving. Prepare simple meatless meals one day a week throughout Lent, in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Be sure to visit crsricebowl.org to watch videos of the people and communities your Lenten gifts will change through CRS Rice Bowl. CRS also has a free Lenten app which you can download for iPhone or Android devices to get daily Lenten reflections on your phone.

The children and young people in Holy Name Catholic School have been given a rice bowl. This week during PSR students will be given a rice bowl. If you do not have a family member in our Catholic school or PSR, I invite you to pick up a cardboard rice bowl which contains a Home Calendar Guide from the back of the church.

At the end of Lent the money can be returned to church on Holy Thursday. The money received for CRS Rice Bowl will be sent to the Diocesan Mission Office. Seventy-five percent of the money will be sent to Catholic Relief Services to support development projects that help families and communities around the world. The remaining twenty-five percent of CRS Rice Bowl contributions will be used within the Diocese of Wichita to fund local programs that strive to eliminate poverty and hunger.

CRS Rice Bowl is a very complete program that helps individuals and families to live a truly fruitful Lenten season, grow in a deeper awareness of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, and be in solidarity with the poor of the world. I hope you will consider CRS Rice Bowl as part of your Lenten observance and make a donation on Holy Thursday. Pope Francis reminds us, "Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Jesus has taught us the importance of caring for the least among us.