

encounter

Lent COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY



"Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his Word, in the sacraments and in our neighbor." —Pope Francis

Dear Friends,

This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl, a faith-in-action program that invites us to encounter our neighbor, invites your parish community to journey alongside the Good Samaritan as companions on the journey, through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

As Pope Francis asks us to "Share the Journey" with migrants and refugees around the world, Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) Rice Bowl offers Catholics in the United States a way to encounter Lent, to encounter the causes of migration and displacement, and to learn about the challenges faced by families around the world in their dioceses, parishes and homes.

CRS Rice Bowl, the agency's flagship Lenten program now in its fifth decade, will begin once again on Ash Wednesday – February 14, 2018 – giving Catholics throughout the country an opportunity to encounter the stories of people in need around the world.

Funds collected in the rice bowls, which are turned in at the end of Lent, are distributed both around the world and in local communities to combat hunger – 75 percent of every donation goes to CRS programming in targeted countries worldwide, including Iraq, Nicaragua, Burkina Faso, Haiti and Malawi while 25 percent remains in the Archdiocese and is used to support the work of local food cupboards and soup kitchens through Nutritional Development Services.

Excellent, prayerful and bilingual materials for your faith community can be ordered at crsricebowl.org or by calling 1-800-222-0025. If I can support your Rice Bowl efforts this Lenten season, please feel free to contact me at aayella@archphila.org.

Your support of CRS Rice Bowl is a real blessing to so many. One person whose life has been transformed by Rice Bowl is visiting the Archdiocese to share his gratitude. All are most welcome to hear Thomas Awiapo's powerful story at St. Charles Seminary on **Tuesday, February 20th at 7 PM** in Vianney Hall.

Thank you for all you do to enliven the Lenten journey of your parish community.

Gratefully,

Anne H. Ayella
CRS Diocesan Director

CRS Rice Bowl is sponsored by Catholic Relief Services, the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. CRS is motivated by the example of Jesus Christ to assist poor and suffering people in more than 100 countries on the basis of need, without regard to race, religion or nationality.

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