

encounter

Lent COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY



Dear Friends,

We are called to love our neighbor. But, like the scholar in the Scripture passage, we may find ourselves wondering, “Who is my neighbor?” This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl, Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten faith-in-action program, will help us to answer that question.

We are invited to reflect on how an encounter with our neighbor can be transformative. We will hear stories of our global neighbors from Guatemala, Uganda, Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone and Gaza. We will see how our prayers, fasting and alms can support those worldwide who are struggling and also learn how Rice Bowl impacts the lives of the hungry right in our own Archdiocese at area food cupboards and soup kitchens supported by **Nutritional Development Services**.

We are invited to join nearly 14,000 faith communities in 180 dioceses around the U.S. in prayers, fasting and almsgiving this Lent. CRS Rice Bowl, the agency’s flagship Lenten program now in its fifth decade, will begin once again on Ash Wednesday – **March 6, 2019**.

At this time, many parishes and schools have received their 2019 Rice Bowls and materials. If you have not received them or if you are in need of additional bowls, posters or information, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me by e-mail at aayella@archphila.org or on my cell at 215-907-9436. Funds collected in the rice bowls can be turned in at the end of Lent and sent to Office for Accounting Services, 222 N. 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

Excellent, prayerful and bilingual materials for your faith community can be ordered at csrcricebowl.org or by calling 1-800-222-0025. Resources such as Lesson Plans, Prayer Services, Stations of the Cross, videos, simple meal recipes, weekly prayer intentions and bulletin announcements will enrich your parish Lenten journey.

Your support of CRS Rice Bowl is a real blessing to so many. May God bless you and your community for your compassion and generosity.

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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