

Dear Friends in Christ,

Peace and all good to you as we continue our celebration of the Risen Christ!

Thank you for participating in CRS Rice Bowl this year. What started as a way for Catholics in the United States to respond to the famine in Africa in 1976 has evolved into a Lenten tradition bringing us closer together as one Church and one human family.

In the midst of this pandemic and the economic and social challenges that have surfaced as a result, your response to the needs of the poor is inspiring. Whether through your gift of prayer or a financial contribution, know that your willingness to give of yourself and what you have does make a difference.

Although parishes are still reporting their donations and the final tally for our archdiocese has not yet been determined, I know that every penny donated to the 2021 CRS Rice Bowl campaign came from a place of love and solidarity and will serve to promote the common good both here at home and around the world.

Seventy-five percent of the alms given through CRS Rice Bowl will go to Catholic Relief Services to support humanitarian aid projects that bring vital hope and lifesaving aid to millions of people in more than 100 countries.

Twenty-five percent of CRS Rice Bowl donations will stay here in our archdiocese to help those suffering from poverty and hunger in our own community through providing education and programming on what we can do to alleviate the root causes of these issues.

To help you offer that education in your own communities, CRS Rice Bowl grants are available from our Justice and Peace Ministries office. Parishes, schools and other community organizations can be awarded up to \$500 annually. The grant application is included with this letter and I encourage anyone who is interested in pursuing this vital work to apply for funding.

Thank you for making Lenten sacrifices that will lift up our sisters and brothers living in poverty. Together, we can respond to Christ's call to care for those in need and ensure everyone, near and far, has enough nutritious food to thrive.

Yours in Christ,

+ *Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv.*

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Archbishop of Atlanta