



Memo

Date: March 25, 2019

To: All Priests and Deacons, Parish/Mission/School Staff, Social Ministry Leaders, Directors of Faith Formation, Youth Ministers, Campus Ministers, Bulletin Editors

From: Kat Doyle, Director of Justice & Peace Ministries, Office of Life, Dignity & Justice

Re: Returning Your CRS Rice Bowls

Through CRS Rice Bowl, this Lent we have shared the journey with members of our human family around the world, and committed our Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving to deepening our faith and serving those in need.

We want to thank all the parishes and schools who are participating in CRS Rice Bowl this Lent. Although we are still in the middle of the Lenten season, we would like to remind you to start planning how you will collect Rice Bowls from your parish or school community. If you ordered Rice Bowl materials from CRS, you have or will soon receive a packet with some ideas for this process.

There will be an upcoming memo from the Office of Finance with instructions on how to submit your CRS Rice Bowl funds. As a reminder, please separately track and submit the Rice Bowl collection (end of Lent) and the Catholic Relief Services second collection (March 31, 2019).

Included with this memo is a step-by-step guide with instructions and suggestions for how best to conclude your CRS Rice Bowl campaign.

If you have any questions about CRS Rice Bowl, please contact Jayna Hoffacker, Justice & Peace Ministries Program Coordinator, at jhoffacker@archatl.com or 404-920-7898.

TIPS FOR COLLECTING CRS RICE BOWLS

STEP 1

Decide which collection method works best for your community.

■ OPTION 1

Participants bring their CRS Rice Bowls with contributions to the designated collection area. Collecting the CRS Rice Bowls makes your community's Lenten efforts concrete and visible.

TO CONSIDER: Be prepared to empty the Rice Bowls, count coins and handle checks. Recruit youth group members or Confirmation candidates to help!

■ OPTION 2

Ask participants to convert their CRS Rice Bowl gifts to checks made out to your parish or school for easier counting.

Combine gifts into one check, write "CRS Rice Bowl" on the memo line, and send to your local diocesan director (visit crs.org/contact to find your diocesan director) or to:

**Catholic Relief Services
CRS Rice Bowl
P.O. Box 17090
Baltimore, Maryland 21297-0303**

■ OPTION 3

Participants donate directly to CRS. Donate online at crsricebowl.org/give or by sending a check to the address above.

STEP 2

Plan a meaningful ritual to collect CRS Rice Bowls.

CRS Rice Bowl offers an **Offertory Prayer to End the Lenten Journey** to help your community conclude this holy season. Visit crsricebowl.org/parish for more ideas.

STEP 3

Publicize when and where CRS Rice Bowls will be collected.

Announce details in a variety of ways, including in your bulletin or newsletter, on your community's social media pages, in announcements at Mass or in school, and by hanging up the collection poster you will receive midway through Lent.

STEP 4

Collect and count Lenten gifts.

Recruit volunteers from your parish ministries, religious education program, youth ministry or parish school to help you count coins. Send one check to your diocese or directly to CRS at the address in Step 1.

STEP 5

Thank your community, and let them know the impact their gifts will have.

Display the **Thank You Poster** you receive from CRS at the end of Lent. See crsricebowl.org for other creative ways to thank your community.