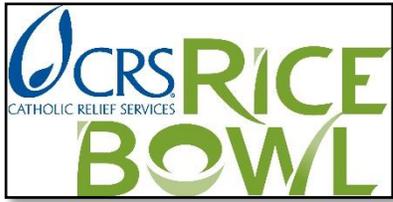


CRS Rice Bowl and the USCCB's Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRS Collection)
During Lent, Catholics in the United States have two opportunities to support the Church's global mission to assist the poor.



CRS Rice Bowl

CRS Collection



What is it?

CRS Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program for families and faith communities. It offers simple, yet powerful, ways for every one of our parishes, most of our schools, and families throughout western Washington to bring Lenten spirituality to life.

Every Lent, Catholics here and throughout the U.S. do something amazingly holy and just. Our prayers, fasting and almsgiving become lifesaving aid for millions of individuals living in conditions of poverty around the world. The hungry are fed; the thirsty are given drink; immigrants and refugees are served; the homeless find shelter.

The CRS Collection is one of the twelve national collections established by the bishops of the United States and represents our community of faith at work in the world. The CRS Collection theme, *Help Jesus in disguise*, reminds us of the presence of Christ in every one of our brothers and sisters in need.

The bishops encourage us to view the national collection in the light of stewardship and sharing. It is right and just that we give something back, helping people in our nation and worldwide to live better and grow in the love of Jesus.

When does it happen?

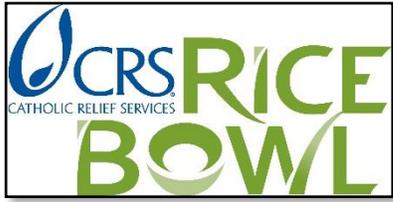
Rice Bowl begins on **Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019** and ends with **Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019**.

The national date for the CRS Collection is always Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent. This year, the CRS Collection will be held **March 30-31, 2019**.

Who Benefits?

Rice Bowl contributions support projects that assist our sisters and brothers in need, both overseas and here in the United States. 75 percent of Rice Bowl contributions are sent to Catholic Relief Services and help fund development projects overseas that help increase and maintain communities' access to food. 25 percent of the contributions fund local poverty and hunger alleviation programs in dioceses in the U.S. Visit www.seattlearchdiocese.org/ricebowl to learn how we use the 25% in this archdiocese through our Rice Bowl grants program. No administrative expense is taken from your donation. (Every parish is encouraged to apply for a grant!)

The CRS Collection supports six Catholic organizations (Catholic Relief Services; the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development; Migration and Refugee Services; Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc.; Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church; and the Holy Father's Relief Fund) that advance the international social ministry of the Catholic Church. In addition, the collection supports your Missions Office as the representative of many of the above agencies. Visit www.usccb.org/crscollection to find more information about who benefits from our support.



CRS Rice Bowl

CRS Collection



How can I promote full participation?

- Encourage our people to *pray* together, *fast* in solidarity with those who hunger, *learn* about our family in the developing world, and *give* to those in need.
- The CRS Rice Bowl materials contain ideas for how to incorporate all components of the program into participants' Lenten journey.
- The *Lenten Calendar* (inserted in the Rice Bowl) includes stories about the people who benefit from Catholic Relief Services' work overseas, reflections, and recipes for simple meals.
- The *Educator's Guide* includes lesson plans for teachers and religious educators to incorporate CRS Rice Bowl into the curriculum during Lent.
- The *Coordinator's Guide* offers ideas to incorporate CRS Rice Bowl into liturgies and community activities.

More information on CRS Rice Bowl is available at <http://www.crsricebowl.org>

- Mention the CRS Collection during Mass, and invite parishioners to respond to the gospel call to love our neighbors throughout the world through their participation in the collection.
- Make sure you have received the CRS Collection materials, use the printed bulletin inserts, share the email notice we provide, and include the collection envelope in parishioners' packets.
- *Parish Resources* are available online at <http://bit.ly/1EbtdO5>, which include Bulletin Announcements and other useful materials.

More information on the CRS Collection is available at www.usccb.org/crscollection.

Parish staff: Please make all checks payable to "Missions Office," with "Rice Bowl" or "CRS Collection" on the memo line or indicated elsewhere. *Thank you* for not combining checks.

If you have any questions, please contact the Missions Office at 800-869-7028; 206-382-4580 or via email at missions.office@seattlearch.org.

Thank You for contributing to the success of these two important initiatives!

"Let us not waste this season of Lent, so favorable a time for conversion!"

- Pope Francis