



2012 Coordinator's Guide

Use this guide to start preparing
for CRS' Operation Rice Bowl in
your faith community!

orb.crs.org



Enhance your Lenten journey and invite a Global Fellow to your community

CRS’ Global Fellows are priests, deacons and seminarians who are committed to spreading the message about our Gospel call to global solidarity. Invite a Global Fellow to your parish or school to share inspirational stories about how CRS is helping those who are hungry around the world.

To learn more about Global Fellows or to invite a Global Fellow to your community, visit globalfellows.crs.org or call 1-866-608-5978.



Face the Fast this Lent!

Empower youth to live as Jesus’ disciples in our world! Participate in Food Fast with your youth group as a complement to Operation Rice Bowl in your parish this Lent.

CRS’ Food Fast is a 24-hour fasting retreat for youth. Focusing on global poverty and hunger, Food Fast allows youth to journey with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Learn more at foodfast.org.

Catholics Confront Global Poverty

Be One in a Million—Join Us to Confront Global Poverty

Join Catholic Relief Services and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and invite your church or school to address hunger, disease, conflict and other issues affecting our brothers and sisters around the world through *Catholics Confront Global Poverty*.

Catholics Confront Global Poverty is one way to stay involved in the work of Catholic Relief Services after the Lenten season. Visit crs.org/globalpoverty for more information!



During Lent, commit to Fair Trade

When you participate in the CRS Fair Trade Program, you make a difference in the lives of low-income families around the world simply by shopping with respect. Consider making Fair Trade a part of your community’s Lenten journey.

- Serve Fair Trade coffee in your parish during Lent to show your solidarity with small-scale coffee farmers.
- Order Easter chocolate early through the CRS’ Fair Trade chocolate project, or host a Fair Trade Easter chocolate sale for your parish.
- Make a Lenten commitment to promote global solidarity throughout the year. Organize a group in your parish and begin planning a Work of Human Hands Sale for the fall. Give your community the opportunity to shop with their values in preparation for Christmas.

To learn more about incorporating Fair Trade into your Lenten activities, visit crsfairtrade.org.

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Even More! orb.crs.org

Dear Friends,

Blessings to your faith community as you prepare for the 2012 Lenten season!

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus explains that “whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” Our faith calls us to reach out in solidarity to our sisters and brothers in need and to be authentic expressions of God’s love in our world today. This Lent, Catholic Relief Services invites your faith community to participate in Operation Rice Bowl as one way to observe this lifelong commitment.

This *Coordinator’s Guide* is designed to prepare your community for an enriching Lenten journey. You will find materials to help you **pray** in a way that deepens your Lenten reflections; **fast** in solidarity with those who experience hunger; **learn** about the challenges, joys and gifts of the poor around the world; and **give** of your time and resources to assist those in need.

On behalf of all those around the world who are helped by Catholic Relief Services, thank you for your prayers and support through Operation Rice Bowl. May your faith community enjoy a truly blessed Lenten season.

Sincerely,



Joan Rosenhauer
Executive Vice President, U.S. Operations
Catholic Relief Services
Baltimore, MD



Photo by Bobb Reider/Catholic Relief Services



Catholic Relief Services

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. CRS alleviates suffering and provides assistance to people in need in nearly 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality.



Operation Rice Bowl

This Lenten season, Catholic Relief Services invites Catholics to **pray** with their families and faith communities; **fast** in solidarity with those who hunger; **learn** about our global community and the challenges of poverty around the world; and **give** sacrificial contributions to those in need.

How to Organize Operation Rice Bowl

This timeline will help you plan and implement Operation Rice Bowl in your community.

6 weeks before Lent:

- Discuss integrating Operation Rice Bowl into your community's Lenten activities with your pastor or principal.
- Invite members of your community to volunteer to help organize Operation Rice Bowl and begin planning your community's activities.
- Alert parish staff that Operation Rice Bowl materials will be arriving in January.
- To order additional materials, call (800) 222-0025 or place an order online at orb.crs.org.

5 weeks before Lent:

- Distribute the *Educator's Guide* to teachers to ensure that they have time to incorporate lessons into their classes.
- Encourage your youth minister to organize and hold a Food Fast as a complement to Operation Rice Bowl this Lent.

4 weeks before Lent:

- Ask your pastor to use the *Homily Notes* (p. 9) and *Prayer Intentions* (p. 11) during Lent.
- Work with volunteers to finalize plans for incorporating Operation Rice Bowl into your parish's or school's Lenten activities.

3 weeks before Lent:

- Determine with volunteers how and when Operation Rice Bowl materials will be distributed. Plan to distribute a *Rice Bowl/Lenten Calendar* to each family in your community on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, at Mass on Ash Wednesday, or on the first Sunday of Lent.

1 week before Lent:

- Confirm with your pastor or principal when and how you will distribute the Operation Rice Bowl materials to the community.

Ash Wednesday:

- Ask your pastor or principal to make an announcement about your community's participation in Operation Rice Bowl and to introduce the *Rice Bowl* and *Lenten Calendar* from the pulpit or at a school assembly.

During Lent:

- Use the *Bulletin Announcements* (p. 6), *Homily Notes* (p. 9) and *Prayer Intentions* (p. 11) each Sunday during Lent as a reminder of your community's participation.
- Encourage participants to visit orb.crs.org to find videos, activities and resources.
- Announce when and where participants should turn in their Operation Rice Bowl contributions (p. 3).

After Lent:

- Collect Operation Rice Bowl contributions and publish the total amount that your community raised.
- See *Stewardship* (p. 3) for instructions on how to turn in your Operation Rice Bowl contributions.

Stewardship

These instructions will help ensure that the sacrificial contributions of your faith community are put to use in a timely manner to assist our brothers and sisters around the world.

How to Collect Donations

- **Designate a day to collect all Operation Rice Bowl donations**
- Suggested Collection Days: Palm Sunday (April 1, 2012) or Sunday after Easter (April 15, 2012)
 - Some parishes and schools find it helpful to designate an alternate collection day for those participants who miss the first one.
 - Using the *Bulletin Announcements* (p. 6), inform members of your faith community about the designated Operation Rice Bowl Collection Day(s).
- Using the *Bulletin Announcements* (p. 6), inform members of your faith community about how the Operation Rice Bowl donations will be used.
 - 75% of donations support Catholic Relief Services' development programs in more than 40 countries around the world.
 - 25% of donations support local hunger and poverty alleviation efforts in your diocese.
- **Instruct the members of your faith community on how the donations will be collected. Below are two possible collection methods.**
 - Request that each member of your faith community count the money in his/her *Rice Bowl* and return a check made out to your parish or school at a designated time and place.
 - Request that each member of your faith community return his/her *Rice Bowl* to your parish or school at a designated time and place.
- Using the *Bulletin Announcements* (p. 6), thank the members of your faith community for participating in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl.

How to Remit Donations

Contact your CRS Diocesan Director (crs.org/contact) or Diocesan Finance Office for information on where to send your community's contribution.

- Collect all checks and/or count all donations and send one check to your Diocese. Please indicate on the memo line of the check that the donation is for "Operation Rice Bowl."
- For more information on how to return your Operation Rice Bowl donation, please visit orb.crs.org or call 1-866-608-5978.

Activity Suggestions

Did you know that CRS provides additional resources to help your community integrate Operation Rice Bowl into a variety of activities? Here are a few ways you can use these resources to enrich the Lenten observance of your faith community.

Bulletin Resources

- Use the *Bulletin Announcements* (p. 6) and *Bulletin Insert* (p. 8) to announce your community's participation in Operation Rice Bowl and to keep participants updated throughout Lent.

Homily Notes

- Use the *Homily Notes* (p. 9), or read and reflect on one of the stories from the *Lenten Calendar* in at least one homily during Lent.

Prayer Service

- Use the *Prayer Service* (p. 12) to begin your Lenten celebration.

Prayer Intentions

- Include the *Prayer Intentions* (p. 11) in the Prayer of the Faithful during Mass.

Prayer Eggs

- Give students copies of the *Prayer Eggs* (orb.crs.org) to inspire their Lenten prayers.

Stations of the Cross

- Pray the Operation Rice Bowl *Stations of the Cross* (orb.crs.org) and bring an international dimension to this traditional Lenten observance.

Placemat

- In the parish, consider holding a Lenten supper during each Friday of Lent using the Operation Rice Bowl simple meal recipes. Use the *Placemat* (orb.crs.org) and encourage participants to use it in their homes during Lent.

Videos and Slideshows

- Show *Videos* and *Slideshows* featuring projects in Madagascar, Vietnam, El Salvador, Zambia and India (*DVD/CD-ROM* or orb.crs.org) at community gatherings.

Best Practices

Integrating Operation Rice Bowl into community activities can enrich the Lenten experience for participants. Here are some Best Practices used in communities across the United States.

Pray

- **Ask your pastor to make an announcement about your community's participation in Operation Rice Bowl during Mass.**
- Use the Operation Rice Bowl *Prayer Service* (p. 12) to begin your Lenten celebration.
- Incorporate Operation Rice Bowl into the procession or presentation of gifts as part of the liturgy by having children carry *Rice Bowls* to place around the altar.
- Use the *Homily Notes* (p. 9), or read and reflect on one of the stories from the *Lenten Calendar* in at least one homily during Lent.
- Include the *Prayer Intentions* (p. 11) in the Prayer of the Faithful during Mass.
- Give students copies of the *Prayer Eggs* (orb.crs.org) to inspire their Lenten prayers.
- Pray the Operation Rice Bowl *Stations of the Cross* (orb.crs.org) to bring an international dimension to this traditional Lenten practice.

Fast

- **In the parish or school, prepare a simple meal each Friday using the Operation Rice Bowl recipes. Participants can donate the money they save to Operation Rice Bowl. Use the Placemat during the meal.**
- Participate in Food Fast, Catholic Relief Services' 24-hour hunger awareness retreat for Catholic youth. For more information visit foodfast.org.

Learn

- **Show Videos and Slideshows featuring projects in Madagascar, Vietnam, El Salvador, Zambia and India at community gatherings.**
- Incorporate lesson plans into the Lenten curriculum and help students increase their understanding of our global community.
- Find additional resources for use in your parish, school or faith community at orb.crs.org/resources.
- Visit crs.org/globalpoverty to learn how your community can join one million Catholics to *Confront Global Poverty*.
- Invite a CRS Global Fellow to speak about the work of CRS around the world. For more information visit globalfellows.crs.org.

Give

- **See *Stewardship* (p. 3) for instructions on how to turn in your Operation Rice Bowl contributions. Call 1-866-608-5978 with additional questions. Thank you for your support!**
- Organize a community volunteer activity at a local outreach center and focus on the links between local and global poverty.

Bulletin Announcements

These Bulletin Announcements were written by Judy Swazey from the Diocese of San Jose. Ms. Swazey is the Liturgy Director at St. Martin of Tours Parish in San Jose, CA.

Sunday before Ash Wednesday

You're invited to participate in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl

This Lent, our faith community will be joining millions of Catholics across the country by participating in CRS' Operation Rice Bowl. Your family is invited to pick up a Rice Bowl packet [when/where] and join in this simple yet powerful Lenten practice. Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl invites us to **pray** with our families and faith communities, **fast** in solidarity with those who are hungry, **learn** about our brothers and sisters around the world, and **give** sacrificial contributions to help those in need. Visit orb.crs.org for additional resources to use at home.

First Week of Lent

Operation Rice Bowl Reflection: God's Covenant

In today's first reading, we hear about God's covenant with Noah, with his descendants and with all living creatures. During Lent, we are called to deepen and strengthen our baptismal and covenantal relationship with God, which includes our responsibility to care for God's creation. This week through Operation Rice Bowl, we **learn** about subsistence farmers in Madagascar. We **pray** for all who struggle to feed their families on depleted lands, and we **fast** in solidarity with those who hunger. We **give** so that CRS can help farmers improve their growing methods and act as good stewards of God's creation.

Second Week of Lent

Operation Rice Bowl Reflection: Call and Response

In today's first reading, Abraham responds faithfully to God, and God bestows blessings on him and all of his descendants. During Lent, we are called to listen to God's voice in our lives and to respond in faith. This week through Operation Rice Bowl, we **learn** about adults and children in Vietnam who struggle with disabilities. We **pray** that we may recognize the inherent dignity in all of God's people, and we **fast** so that our sacrifices may bring new life to others. We **give** so that CRS can continue to help people with disabilities receive a quality education and find productive work.

Third Week of Lent

Operation Rice Bowl Reflection: Rights and Responsibilities

In today's scriptures, we hear the commandments given to Moses after God brings the Israelites out of slavery. These commandments represent fundamental rights and responsibilities for all of God's people. This week through Operation Rice Bowl, we **learn** about communities in El Salvador that lack clean and safe water, which is a basic human right. We **pray** for those whose health is compromised by contaminated water, and we **fast** from wasting and polluting this precious resource. We **give** so that CRS can improve access to clean water in communities throughout the world.

Fourth Week of Lent

Operation Rice Bowl Reflection: God's Mercy

In today's scriptures, we hear how the Israelites repeatedly break their covenant with God, and yet God continues to respond with merciful and abiding love. Our response to God's grace must be apparent in our works. This week through Operation Rice Bowl, we **learn** about our brothers and sisters in Zambia, who are unable to enter the marketplace and earn a living. We **pray** for all who struggle to find work, and we **fast** for those who cannot afford to feed their families. We **give** so that CRS can help marginalized people obtain loans in order to save money, start small businesses and work toward a brighter future.

Fifth Week of Lent

Operation Rice Bowl Reflection: The New Covenant

In today's first reading, the prophet Jeremiah describes a new covenant – one which is written on our hearts. As Christians, we believe that this new covenant is fulfilled in Jesus. This week through Operation Rice Bowl, we **learn** about malnourished children and expectant mothers in India whose health has been compromised by their poverty. We **pray** that we may open our hearts to the needs of the poor and vulnerable. We **fast**, not merely from our excess, but from our very substance, so that new life may come to all who suffer from poverty, illness and injustice. We **give** so that CRS-trained health care workers can help improve the lives of women and children throughout the world.

Palm Sunday

Operation Rice Bowl Reflection: The Passion

As we reflect on the passion of Christ, we remember that more than 44 million people in the United States are living in poverty. While 75% of our gifts to Operation Rice Bowl support Catholic Relief Services' programs around the world, 25% of our contributions remain in our diocese to support local hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Your **prayers, fasting, learning, and almsgiving** through Operation Rice Bowl make a significant difference in the lives of people in our own community and in communities around the world.

Easter Sunday

Operation Rice Bowl Reflection: The Resurrection

Our celebration of the resurrection brings us new joy and hope! Throughout Lent, your support of Operation Rice Bowl has helped offer hope to millions of people around the world who benefit from the work of Catholic Relief Services. For six weeks you have prayed for the people of Madagascar, fasted in solidarity with the people of India, learned about the challenges in the lives of people in Vietnam and El Salvador, and given sacrificially to create economic opportunities in Zambia. Their struggles—and the efforts of CRS—are far from over, but you have made a difference.

Operation Rice Bowl Collection Announcement #1

Thank you for participating in CRS' Operation Rice Bowl!

Our faith community helped make a difference in the lives of millions of people around the world suffering from poverty and hunger. To ensure that Catholic Relief Services is able to continue providing life-saving work to these communities, **please return your Rice Bowl by [DATE]**. To help our community send a check more quickly, please count your contribution and make a check payable to [Parish/School Name]. Please write "Operation Rice Bowl" in the memo line of the check. Your contributions can be placed in [LOCATION]. Thank you for your generous support.

Operation Rice Bowl Collection Announcement #2

Thank you for your generosity this year!

Our faith community raised \$[TOTAL] for Catholic Relief Services. Your participation in Operation Rice Bowl will continue to make a difference throughout this year. If you have not yet returned your contribution, you may still do so by [INSERT INSTRUCTIONS].

If you would like to include Operation Rice Bowl logos or photos in your weekly bulletin, please visit orb.crs.org to access downloadable clip art.



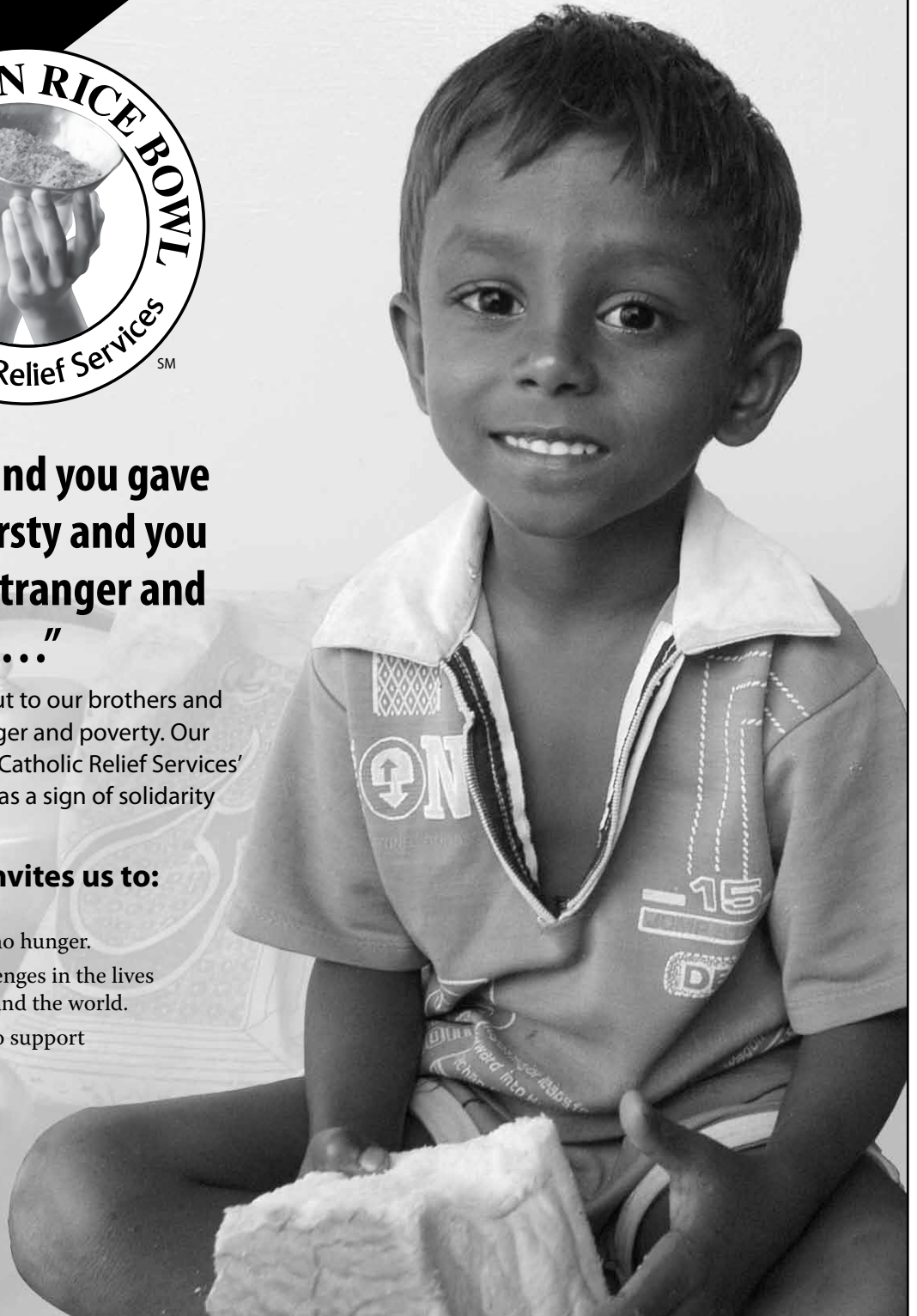
“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me...”

The Gospel calls us to reach out to our brothers and sisters who struggle with hunger and poverty. Our community will participate in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl this Lent as a sign of solidarity with our global family.

Operation Rice Bowl invites us to:

- Pray together.
- Fast in solidarity with those who hunger.
- Learn about the joys and challenges in the lives of our brothers and sisters around the world.
- Give sacrificial contributions to support those in need.

Visit **ORB.CRS.ORG** to watch videos and learn more about the difference your prayers, fasting and almsgiving make in the lives of our brothers and sisters in need.



Take a Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar to enhance your Lenten experience at home.

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

Homily Notes

These Homily Notes were written by Deacon Bill Hampton from the Archdiocese of Atlanta. Deacon Hampton is a CRS Global Fellow and the Director of Stewardship at St. Matthew's Parish in Tyrone, GA.

First Sunday of Lent: February 26, 2012

In this week's reading from the Book of Genesis, we hear about the great flood and God's covenant with Noah and his descendants. In today's Gospel, we learn that Jesus spends forty days in the desert surrounded by wild beasts and very little water. Water is a recurring theme in the Scriptures, and it is a vital resource in all of our lives. We begin our spiritual journeys bathed in the waters of baptism; we drink water every day to nourish our thirst; and we are sprinkled with water at the end of our lives. Without water we cannot grow food to feed our families. Imagine if we did not have access to this life-giving and renewing resource?

During this Lenten season, let us express thanks for the many blessings in our lives, especially for the gifts of fertile land and life-giving water. We are called to act as good stewards of God's creation and to share His gifts with our brothers and sisters in need. In Madagascar, for example, Catholic Relief Services' gift of a simple treadle pump has made a world of difference for Mr. Robin, for his family and for his entire village. The pump has not only allowed Mr. Robin to grow better quality and larger quantities of food, but it has enabled him to hire two workers to help him tend his farm. In addition, Mr. Robin is now able to sell his fruits and vegetables for a fair and affordable price, which benefits his entire community.

As we pray, fast, learn and give this Lent through CRS' Operation Rice Bowl, let us remember our brothers and sisters around the world who struggle to support their families without access to nutritious food. May we protect our environment and empower families who are in need, and in doing so, recognize the face of Christ in each of our brothers and sisters.

Second Sunday of Lent: March 4, 2012

"And He was transfigured before them" (Matthew 17:2). Each of us has the capacity to build up other people, to show them the love of Christ through our love and our actions. In today's Gospel, we learn that Jesus' transformation took place on Mount Tabor. Our own personal transformations take place during our faith journeys. We are transformed in the moments when we demonstrate love, acceptance and encouragement to our neighbors. During these moments, we are strengthened for our journey just as Jesus was strengthened.

In Hanoi, Vietnam, Catholic Relief Services is providing education to our brothers and sisters in need through the Inclusion of Vietnamese with Disabilities Program. This program transforms the lives of students who have disabilities. Through quality education and the development of work skills, the program seeks to help each student realize his or her full potential.

Each human being is special and is made in the image and likeness of God. Each person has many gifts to offer once they receive the right tools for their journey. Christ's transformation was an affirmation that He had chosen the right path, and helping others to discover their talents and strengths gives them endurance for their own individual journeys. During this Lenten season, as we call to mind God's proclamation that "you are my chosen ones," let us take time to transform one another's lives through our kindness, compassion and love. As we pray, fast, learn and give through CRS' Operation Rice Bowl this Lent, may that journey of transformation begin to flourish.

Third Sunday of Lent: March 11, 2012

“Take these out of here and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace” (John 2:16). In today’s Gospel, Jesus protects the temple by driving out the moneychangers and overturning the market stalls. As Catholics, we have a responsibility to protect the rights of our brothers and sisters around the world. These rights include the right to life, food, shelter and clean water. There are millions of people around the world who do not have access to these essential resources.

Catholic Relief Services supports water and sanitation projects around the world including one in El Pedregal, El Salvador. Maria Idalia Serrano used to spend the majority of her day trudging back and forth between the river, retrieving water for her family. Clean water was not available, so her family had to use unsafe water for drinking, cooking, washing and bathing. When CRS built a well in Maria’s village, the entire community benefited from this innovation. Now Maria can spend more time with her children and teach her neighbors about the importance of utilizing clean water.

Just as Jesus protected the temple from the moneychangers, we too must protect the health and well-being of our world and our neighbors. Clean, fresh water is an essential resource. It seems so simple, but for many, this basic right is out of reach. May our participation in Operation Rice Bowl help to support the vital work of Catholic Relief Services in El Salvador and around the world. And let us pray that the leaders of all governments take the necessary steps to ensure that the dignity and basic rights of all human beings are secured and protected.

Fourth Sunday of Lent: March 18, 2012

“So that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life” (John 3:15). God wants us to live good and just lives. He sent His only Son into the world so that the world might have eternal life through Him. If we truly believe that we are all brothers and sisters and that we are called to live in solidarity, then we must reach out to one another. We must be God’s arms and ears and feet and eyes. We must be Christ to one another.

Our international humanitarian agency, Catholic Relief Services, carries out the work of Christ on behalf of the Catholic Church in the United States. All of our brothers and sisters around the world have a right to work in good conditions and to earn a fair wage. CRS’ microfinance programs promote the rights of workers around the world. The Savings and Internal Lending Community in Mongu, Zambia has helped In’utu Kokla and her husband to earn a living and support their family. This program is managed by the community, and through it, group members can acquire small business loans and loans to assist with doctor’s visits and other emergencies. The program upholds the dignity of work and the rights of workers and supports the local economy.

By standing in solidarity with our neighbors in need through CRS’ Operation Rice Bowl, we are demonstrating God’s gift of eternal life and helping our brothers and sisters live lives of hope, dignity and peace. In our complex and often challenging world, let us always strive to see the face of Christ in one another and be the face of Christ to one another.

Fifth Sunday of Lent: March 25, 2012

The only path to a rich harvest, for ourselves and for the world in which we live, is Jesus’ path of selflessness and self-sacrifice. In this week’s Gospel of John, we learn that “unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit” (John 12:24). Likewise, we too must die unto ourselves before we can rise to the newness of life. Each of us must look out for the poorest and the most vulnerable members of our society. We have an obligation to reach out to those who are most in need.

Catholic Relief Services has many programs that help safeguard the littlest ones in our society, who are often the most vulnerable. In a small village in India, 13-year-old Gulsana cares for her younger sister, Shabnam. Because of a lack of vitamins and prenatal care, Shabnam is underdeveloped for her age. When a CRS-trained health worker examined her, she helped the family to understand the importance of good nutrition and supplied them with a nutritious powder to feed to Shabnam.

While many of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable populations seem very far away, our faith teaches us that no one is too remote or beyond our power to assist. We have a responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters in need and to take action on behalf of the most vulnerable members of our society. During this Lenten season, as we pray, fast and give alms through CRS’ Operation Rice Bowl, let us remember that our faith extends both our vision and our compassion.

Prayer Intentions

Integrate Operation Rice Bowl into your liturgy by including these intentions in the Prayer of the Faithful each week during Mass.

First Sunday of Lent

For farmers around the world who work to improve their harvests while practicing environmental stewardship, that they may earn a living from the produce of the land. We pray to the Lord.

For our community of faith, that we recognize the face of Christ in each of our brothers and sisters, and reach out to assist those in need. We pray to the Lord.

Second Sunday of Lent

For all children around the world, that they may have equal access to a quality education in order to build brighter futures for themselves and for our global community. We pray to the Lord.

For our community of faith, that we recognize the face of Christ in each of our brothers and sisters, and reach out to assist those in need. We pray to the Lord.

Third Sunday of Lent

For all people around the world who suffer from illnesses because of contaminated water and poor sanitation, that they may gain access to clean water sources. We pray to the Lord.

For our community of faith, that we recognize the face of Christ in each of our brothers and sisters, and reach out to assist those in need. We pray to the Lord.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

For workers around the world, that they may find productive employment and earn fair wages for their labor. We pray to the Lord.

For our community of faith, that we recognize the face of Christ in each of our brothers and sisters, and reach out to assist those in need. We pray to the Lord.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

For mothers and children around the world, that they may receive quality healthcare and nutritional services. We pray to the Lord.

For our community of faith, that we recognize the face of Christ in each of our brothers and sisters, and reach out to assist those in need. We pray to the Lord.

Palm Sunday

For all of our neighbors in need around the world, that they may experience love, compassion, empowerment and hope. We pray to the Lord.

For our community of faith, that we recognize the face of Christ in each of our brothers and sisters, and reach out to assist those in need. We pray to the Lord.

Prayer Service

Materials Needed

Table, candles, cross, Bible, *Rice Bowl/Lenten Calendar* for each participant, copies of *Prayer Service* for each participant, *Gather Comprehensive* hymnal for each participant

Procedure

Ask 8 participants to be readers. Provide readers with a copy of the *Prayer Service* ahead of time and highlight the part you would like each of them to read. Place a *Rice Bowl*, candles and cross on a table in the center of the prayer space.

Prayer Service

Leader: We gather together today in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let us remember that we are now, as always, in the presence of God. *(Pause)* In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus teaches us that when we serve our brothers and sisters in need, we also serve Him. In this spirit, we enter into solidarity with our neighbors around the world who suffer from hunger, thirst, marginalization, and illness.

Song: *Blest Are They* (GC 636)

Leader: **For I was hungry and you gave me food.** Nearly one billion people in the world are suffering from hunger. One out of every four children in developing countries is underweight.

Reader 1: *Isaiah 58:6-10*

Reader 2: *Operation Rice Bowl Story: Madagascar (Lenten Calendar)*

Leader: **For I was thirsty and you gave me drink.** Approximately one in eight people around the world lack access to safe water supplies. 2.5 billion people do not have access to improved sanitation.

Reader 3: *John 4:5-14*

Reader 4: *Operation Rice Bowl Story: El Salvador (Lenten Calendar)*

Song: *Come to the Water* (GC 502)

Leader: **For I was a stranger and you welcomed me.** Sixty-nine million school age children are currently not enrolled in school. Poverty, malnutrition, poor infrastructure and political instability are some of the factors that contribute to low enrollment rates. Orphans and vulnerable children and children with disabilities are especially susceptible to these factors. Too often, these children live on the margins of society, becoming strangers to the world.

Reader 5: *Hebrews 13:1-2*

Reader 6: *Operation Rice Bowl Story: Vietnam (Lenten Calendar)*

Leader: **For I was ill and you cared for me.** Nearly 9 million children under five die in developing countries each year from malnutrition, poor sanitation and lack of access to sufficient health care.

Reader 7: *Luke 10:25-37*

Reader 8: *Operation Rice Bowl Story: India (Lenten Calendar)*

Leader: As we go forth into the world, we ask God to bless our Rice Bowls. Together we pledge to journey with Operation Rice Bowl this Lent, as a concrete response to the call to assist our global family in need. Let us close by praying together the Operation Rice Bowl *Lenten Prayer*.

All: Operation Rice Bowl *Lenten Prayer*. (Located on side panel of *Rice Bowl*)

Song: *We Are Called* (GC 710)

Evaluation

Thank you for making Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl a part of your community's Lenten journey. Please take a moment to provide feedback that will help us assess the effectiveness of the *Coordinator's Guide*. To complete an online evaluation, please visit orb.crs.org.

1 How effective was Operation Rice Bowl in engaging your community in the global work of the Church?

Very Effective

Moderately Effective

Not Effective

2 Our community used resources in:

English

Spanish

Both

3 Our community used resources and information from the:

Printed Booklet

Website

Both

4 Please rate the following **printed resources** that your community used:

	NOT HELPFUL			VERY HELPFUL			
How to Organize Operation Rice Bowl	1	2	3	4	5	Not Used	
Stewardship	1	2	3	4	5	Not Used	
Activity Suggestions	1	2	3	4	5	Not Used	
Best Practices	1	2	3	4	5	Not Used	
Bulletin Announcements	1	2	3	4	5	Not Used	
Bulletin Insert	1	2	3	4	5	Not Used	
Homily Notes	1	2	3	4	5	Not Used	
Prayer Intentions	1	2	3	4	5	Not Used	
Prayer Service	1	2	3	4	5	Not Used	

5 Please rate the following **online resources** that your community used:

	NOT HELPFUL			VERY HELPFUL			
Videos / Slideshows	1	2	3	4	5	Not Used	
Stations of the Cross	1	2	3	4	5	Not Used	
Placemat	1	2	3	4	5	Not Used	
Recipes	1	2	3	4	5	Not Used	
Weekly Reflections	1	2	3	4	5	Not Used	

6 Are there any additional resources that you would find useful or would like to see in future editions of the *Coordinator's Guide*?

7 Please share some specific examples of how your faith community incorporated Operation Rice Bowl into your Lenten celebration.

8 Please share any other feedback about the Operation Rice Bowl program or materials.

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PARISH/SCHOOL NAME

PARISH/SCHOOL ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
OPERATION RICE BOWL
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tear out