

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.