



Global Solidarity during the season of Lent: Operation Rice Bowl and the Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRS Collection)

“The development of peoples depends, above all, on a recognition that the human race is a single family, working together in true communion...”
–Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in veritate* (53)

During Lent Catholic Relief Services provides two opportunities for Catholics in the United States to practice the Catholic social teaching principle of global solidarity and to live in true communion with our brothers and sisters worldwide: the Operation Rice Bowl program and the USCCB’s national CRS Collection.

Important Information about Operation Rice Bowl and the CRS Collection

What is Operation Rice Bowl?

Operation Rice Bowl is the Lenten solidarity program of Catholic Relief Services. Through the Eucharist we have a spiritual connection with all of humanity. Operation Rice Bowl connects our Lenten activities to our brothers and sisters in need worldwide.

We **pray** as a community, **fast** in solidarity with those who are hungry, and **give** concrete assistance to those most in need, while we **learn** about the joys and challenges in the lives of our brothers and sisters around the world.

The theme of Operation Rice Bowl is *We are Disciples for all Nations*. Through participation in the program, Catholics grow in solidarity with their own faith communities and reach out in solidarity to people who live in communities far away.

Operation Rice Bowl begins on **Ash Wednesday, March 9, 2011**; and ends with **Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011**.

Resources are available at orb.crs.org.

What is the CRS Collection?

The CRS Collection is one of the twelve national collections established by the bishops of the United States with the hope that, by combining resources, we can more effectively carry out our mission as Catholics.

The collection represents our community of faith at work in the world. The CRS Collection theme, *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. God has given us our light and our prosperity. 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.

The national date for the CRS Collection is always Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent. This year, the CRS Collection falls on the weekend of **April 2-3, 2011**.

www.usccb.org/crscollection.

Beneficiaries of Operation Rice Bowl and the CRS Collection

Who benefits from Operation Rice Bowl?

Operation Rice Bowl contributions support projects that assist the poor both overseas and here in the United States. 75 percent of Operation 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 remain in the dioceses in the U.S. and are used to fund local poverty and hunger alleviation programs. Visit orb.crs.org to find more information about who benefits from Operation Rice Bowl.

Who benefits from the CRS Collection?

The Catholic Relief Services Collection supports five Catholic organizations (*Catholic Relief Services; the USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development; USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services; the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.; and the Holy Father's Relief Fund*) that advance the international social ministry of the Catholic Church. Visit www.usccb.org/crscollection to find more information about who benefits from the CRS Collection.

Promote Operation Rice Bowl and the CRS Collection

How can I promote full participation in ORB's four components of prayer, fasting, learning, and giving?

Inform your parishes and schools about Operation Rice Bowl materials, which contain resources to incorporate all four components of the program into participants' Lenten celebrations.

- Materials for parishes contain resources for liturgy, Stations of the Cross reflections, Lenten soup supper activities, and more to bring the program into all aspects of the parish Lenten celebration.
- Materials for schools and religious education programs contain lesson plans for grades 1-12, videos, and interactive web resources.
- Materials for families and individuals bring Operation Rice Bowl into the prayer life at home.

By using a combination of these resources in the parish, school, and home, participants experience an enriched Lenten celebration with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Visit orb.crs.org for more information on the full range of resources available through Operation Rice Bowl.

How can I fully promote the CRS Collection?

- Encourage pastors to mention the CRS Collection during Mass, and invite their parishioners to respond to the gospel call to love our neighbors throughout the world through their participation in the collection.
- Make sure parishes received their CRS Collection materials, encourage them to display the poster and use the bulletin inserts, and ask whether they would be interested in having a speaker for Appeal Sunday.
- Make sure pastors know about the *Parish Resources*, available online at www.usccb.org/crscollection, which include Homily Helps, Quotes, and Bulletin Announcements.

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

More information on Operation Rice Bowl is available at orb.crs.org.

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