



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

During Lent, Catholic Relief Services provides two opportunities for Catholics in the United States to live in true communion with our brothers and sisters worldwide through CRS' Operation Rice Bowl and the USCCB's national CRS Collection.

What is CRS' Operation Rice Bowl?



CRS' Operation Rice Bowl offers simple yet powerful ways for parishes, schools and families to bring our Catholic faith

to life during the holy season of Lent.

The program provides resources for use in parish and school community settings, with complementary materials for families to foster their faith life in the home.

By participating in the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving through CRS' Operation Rice Bowl, the faithful in our diocese are making a positive difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters who are most in need.

CRS' Operation Rice Bowl begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012**; and ends with **Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012**.

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 and 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. 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 **March 17-18, 2012**.

www.usccb.org/crscollection

Beneficiaries

Who benefits from CRS' Operation Rice Bowl?

CRS' Operation Rice Bowl contributions support projects that assist the poor both overseas and here in the United States. 75 percent of CRS' 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.

Who benefits from the USCCB's CRS Collection?

The Catholic Relief Services Collection supports five Catholic organizations (*Catholic Relief Services; USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development; USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services; Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.; and the Holy Father's Relief Fund*) that advance the international social ministry of the Catholic Church.

Promote CRS' Operation Rice Bowl and the USCCB's CRS Collection

How can I promote full participation in CRS' Operation Rice Bowl?

Inform your parishes and schools about CRS' Operation Rice Bowl materials, which contain resources to incorporate the four components of the program - prayer, fasting, learning and giving - into participants' Lenten celebrations.

- **Parishes:** Resources include homily notes, bulletin announcements, Prayer of the Faithful, Stations of the Cross, Lenten soup supper activities, and more to bring the program into all aspects of the parish Lenten celebration.
- **Schools:** Resources include lesson plans for grades 1-12, videos, and additional online resources to use in the classroom.
- **Families & Individuals:** Resources help bring CRS' 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 CRS' Operation Rice Bowl.

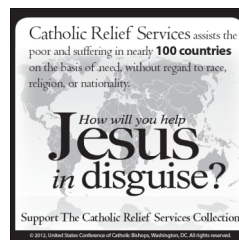
How can I fully promote the USCCB's CRS Collection?

- 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!



CRS' Operation Rice Bowl
orb.crs.org



CRS Collection
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