



CRS' Operation Rice Bowl and the Hispanic Community in Your Diocese

CRS' Operation Rice Bowl is a great resource to help parishes provide faith formation activities that can be used in both community events and by families in the home!

All materials are available in both English and Spanish. We are asking you to make an extra effort this year to reach out to the Hispanic Catholic community and invite them to use this great program in their Lenten practice.

Here are 5 ideas to help you promote participation in CRS' Operation Rice Bowl among the Hispanic community in your diocese. Please read them over, consider what is possible for you, and choose ONE that you can commit to this year. **Thank you** for your work in promoting CRS' Operation Rice Bowl!

1. In December, meet with the director of Hispanic ministry or the leader for Hispanic catechesis in the diocese. Make sure they are aware of the program, highlight that it is a resource for faith formation, and that all materials are in Spanish, including the CD-ROM/DVD. Leave some order cards with them. CRS can provide you with order cards. Email us at educationprograms@crs.org.

Let them know that CRS has resources (orb.crs.org/es) to integrate the program into traditional Lenten devotions in the Hispanic community, including: Ash Wednesday, The Stations of the Cross, the Seven Sorrows of Mary, El Divino Preso.

2. Recruit a Hispanic ministry leader in your community and personally invite him or her to be an ambassador to help you promote CRS' Operation Rice Bowl in the diocese. Make sure this person is bilingual and is well known among the Hispanic community. Meet with her or him in December to brainstorm a simple strategy to promote participation among Hispanic Catholics in the diocese.
3. Find out if there is a meeting in December or January of leaders in Hispanic Ministry: catechists, youth ministers, pastors, etc. Ask for 20 minutes on their agenda, which is enough time to show the Promotion Video in Spanish (new this year!), handout the resource list, answer questions, and give everyone order cards.
4. A CRS speaker can inspire a community to participate in CRS' Operation Rice Bowl more fully and widely. Is there a parish with a large Hispanic community that would be interested in a CRS speaker or a Global Fellow? Would they welcome visitors from Hispanic communities in other parishes? Contact your CRS Regional Office to inquire about CRS staff members, Global Fellows, or CRS Ambassadors who can offer a presentation, homily, or training on CRS' Operation Rice Bowl in Spanish.
5. Make sure that bi-cultural parishes are sharing CRS' Operation Rice Bowl materials among both Spanish and English speaking leaders. Encourage these parishes to have Rice Bowls available on Ash Wednesday, even if they also distribute Rice Bowls on the Sundays before and after. Ask Ash Wednesday presiders to use the pulpit announcement in the Coordinator's Guide (available in English and Spanish at orb.crs.org). You may want to order extra Spanish Rice Bowls to have available for parishes that need them.