

NCCW October 2019 Member Call

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CRS RICE BOWL

Everyone eats and everyone experiences feeling of hunger and thirst. What better way to help children and young people understand charity and sacrifice than to participate in the annual Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Lenten Rice Bowl program? It is the perfect program for families and individuals to live out the “both...and” of Catholic charity—to meet the needs of those near and far, known and unknown, just like us and not like us at all, where ever there is need—a valuable life lesson!

Did you know that CRS Rice Bowl supports your local diocese, as well as our global family? Twenty-five percent of every donation stays in your community to fight hunger and poverty, while 75% supports CRS programming around the world. Find out which local food and nutrition programs your diocese supports with their portion of donations. (Every diocese, under the direction of individual Bishops, allots the funds to programs of their choice. Often, the donations go to Catholic Charities and St. Vincent de Paul’s food ministry.)

Everything you need will be available on the website after Nov. 1st: crs.com. From family menus and recipes to videos of how the collection impacts families around the world. You can even order the cardboard collection containers for your family, religious education program, CCW affiliate or your entire parish. Sign up after Nov. 1st to receive email updates or download the app! crsricebowl@crs.org

Incorporate the Rice Bowl collection into other family and parish-wide activities:

- ❖ Encourage newlyweds to begin a life-long family Lenten tradition
- ❖ Parents of young children may give each a quarter for the box if they give up dessert or chips in their lunchbox
- ❖ Identify one day each week where families are encouraged to have a simple meal and donate the cost of eating out
- ❖ Have a contest among religion classes in the total collection, present certificates
- ❖ Sponsor an essay contest for teens related to hunger, have the winner present at a meeting, publish on the website or newsletter
- ❖ Post a map in a parish meeting space identifying countries where CRS works, highlight areas where the parish has other ministry interaction (international twin/partner parishes, schools or clinics they support, etc.)

In every activity include prayer and discussion. Make connections. Talk about how blessed you are to be able to give. Bring up the program in sharing with others.

From the CRS Mission Statement: As part of the universal mission of the Catholic Church, we work with local, national and international Catholic institutions and structures, as well as other organizations, to assist people on the basis of need, not creed, race or nationality.

Special thanks to Analese Snyder from CRS Rice Bowl who has provided two additional resources from the new 2020 materials: Letter to Families and Five Easy Steps.