



## DIOCESE OF PATERSON

Diocesan Center  
777 Valley Road  
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Office of  
THE BISHOP

(973) 777-8818 Fax (973) 777-8976

February 7, 2016

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our Catholic community in the United States does something amazing each Lent. Through prayers, fasting and almsgiving, we give families around the world the tools they need to rise above poverty and provide for themselves, and their communities. We might call it the "CRS Rice Bowl effect." And this year, we are at it again.

CRS Rice Bowl provides resources to bring Lenten spirituality to life for families and parish and school communities, while continuing to connect Catholics in our diocese with our brothers and sisters in need around the world.

I encourage all of the parishes and schools in our diocese to use CRS Rice Bowl for Lent 2016. Please be sure to provide a CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar to each family in your community. These materials are available in both English and Spanish and are free of charge. You may also visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to find additional resources, including:

- Lenten devotions and prayers
- Reflections for faith-sharing communities and youth ministry groups
- Lesson plans, videos and activity sheets for Catholic school educators and religious educators
- Ideas for community gatherings and simple Lenten meal events
- A new app that delivers prayers and resources directly to your mobile device

**You should have received your ORB materials from CRS by now. If you have not received them, please contact our Paterson Diocese CRS Director Joe Duffy at 973-777-8818, ext. 278, or [jduffy@patersondiocese.org](mailto:jduffy@patersondiocese.org).**

Seventy-five percent of our gifts go to Catholic Relief Services to support vital projects for our neighbors in need around the world. **Twenty-five percent of our gifts remain here in the diocese to support our Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance Services programs**

Thank you for inviting families in your parish or school to an enriched Lenten journey through CRS Rice Bowl. Together, we will make this year's CRS Rice Bowl effect greater than ever.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, STD, SSL, DD  
Bishop of Paterson