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February 15, 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

When speaking to residents of Dona Di Maria, a homeless shelter in Rome, the Holy Father said, "To love God and neighbor is not something abstract, but profoundly concrete: It means seeing in every person the face of the Lord to be served, to serve him concretely. And you are, dear brothers and sisters, the face of Jesus." This Lent, I encourage you to answer Pope Francis's call and the call of Renew My Church to inspire witness by participating in the CRS Rice Bowl; Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program.

CRS Rice Bowl provides ways in which families, parishes, and school communities can bring Lenten spirituality to life while continuing to connect Catholics in our archdiocese with our brothers and sisters in need around the world. Through resources such as stories, videos, meatless recipes, and lesson plans, we can include our brothers and sisters most in need around the world in our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

During the 2018 Lenten season, the generous donations of parishioners across the Archdiocese of Chicago provided \$84,500 in local CRS Rice Bowl grants to parishes and organizations working on non-violence and peacemaking efforts, hunger relief, and environmental justice critical support. This generosity also made a global impact, as support was also provided to CRS programs in Iraq, Nicaragua, Burkina Faso, Haiti, and Malawi. To learn more about the CRS Rice Bowl program, the work of Catholic Relief Services, and the CRS Rice Bowl grant program, I encourage you to visit archchicago.org/crs.

It is my prayer that participation in the CRS Rice Bowl will continue to grow this Lenten season, as it is truly a way to enrich our Lenten journey with both prayer and action. With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Archbishop of Chicago