



This Lenten Season will be one that no one will forget. Throughout the past 40 days this pandemic crisis, COVID-19, made our world appear so much smaller as we were reminded by Pope Francis that “*we can only get out of this situation together, as a whole humanity.*”

And so we gather in our homes this week as a Domestic Church and encouraged to conclude our Lenten journey by counting the sacrificial gifts collected in your Rice Bowls. Reflect on what you witnessed and experienced then offer up the **Prayer to End the Lenten Season** (see below).

Families may send their gifts directly to CRS online:

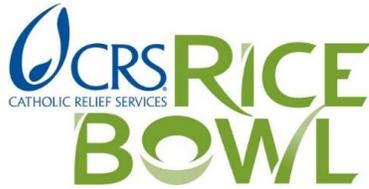
- English <https://support.crs.org/donate/change-life-lent-0>
- Spanish <https://support.crs.org/donate/cambia-una-vida-esta-cuaresma>

Another option is to save your Rice Bowls for a symbolic conclusion that you would bring to your parish when all are able to safely gather again.

During these final days of Holy Week, we mourn the tragic, heroic sacrifice of so many because of the deadly coronavirus and miss not spending these sacred days in our churches with our faith communities. But we can still keep these days holy in our homes with loved ones and in solidarity as a “whole humanity.” CRS Rice Bowl materials can help us journey as one human family with Christ from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem to his final meal with his closest friends and ultimately to his death on the cross and then to the resurrection of Easter Sunday. Some simple Rice Bowl Holy week suggestions for observing Holy Week in your home include:

- **Holy Thursday**—Re-enact Eucharistic service of washing of the Apostles’ feet with your family.
- **Good Friday**—Spend time in prayer and silence. Pray the rosary or Stations of the Cross using CRS Rice Bowl Stations of the Cross video series together as a family. <https://www.crsricebowl.org/stations-of-the-cross>. As we walk the Way of the Cross with Jesus during this pandemic, we call to mind the countless men, women and children who today carry heavy crosses: crosses of being and caring for victims of COVID19, crosses of hunger and homelessness, crosses of being a migrant or refugee, crosses of a lack of resources or security. With these sisters and brothers of *One ‘Ohana*, we witness to Jesus and encounter Christ who continues to walk that long road thru Calvary to the victory of Easter.
- **Holy Saturday**—Traditionally a day of waiting, reflect on your waiting in uncertainty during this pandemic, as Jesus’ family and friends waited in uncertainty and fear before the Resurrection. Prepare to turn in your Lenten Rice Bowl by reflecting on how your prayer, fasting and acts of mercy have made you more aware that we are one human family in this journey together. We need to always remember that Lent and Holy Week prepare for Easter; the fast turns into a feast. Our loving God wins the day. As we journey through the passion of Holy Week to celebrate the Easter of the Risen Christ, our *kuleana* as members of God’s human *‘Ohana* is to share solidarity and aloha with everyone, near and far.

Mahalo for sharing this Lenten journey together, Your friends at CRS and the Office for Social



OFFERTORY PRAYER TO END THE LENTEN SEASON

God of abundance, You generously provide for our every need. As we end our Lenten journey, may we continue to remember our brothers and sisters around the world who are hungry, who don't have the opportunity to dream, and all who need our support. We pray that these, our Lenten sacrifices, may be an offering of solidarity and a promise of ongoing commitment to our one human family. As good stewards of your many gifts, may we always answer Jesus' call to reach out beyond ourselves and to share your abundance. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

AN EASTER PRAYER

***May the Risen Christ,
Who flung open the doors of the tomb,
open our hearts
to the needs of the disadvantaged,
the vulnerable, the poor, the sick,
the unemployed, the marginalized,
and all those who knock at our door
in search of bread, refuge
and the recognition of dignity.***
Pope Francis

*Mahalo for sharing this Lenten journey together, Best Wishes for a blessed Easter.
Your friends at CRS and the Office for Social Ministry*