



DIocese OF SUPERIOR

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 2021

My Dear Friends in Christ,

When we give to the Lord's work, even amid a pandemic, we demonstrate a deep trust in the Lord to save or provide for us. Lent is a time of sacrifice through giving in preparation for Easter. Each year without interruption our northland parishes participate in two major Lenten initiatives that genuinely impact people in our Diocese and beyond; Operation Rice Bowl and the Black and Indian Mission Collection.

These are challenging times and I invite you to support the Black and Indian Mission Collection on the first weekend of Lent. Financial support for the Black and Indian Mission Collection has been a vital mechanism that supports evangelization and education efforts for American Indians, Alaskan Americans, and African Americans throughout the United States. By our baptism into Christ Jesus, we are all missionaries, beginning with our own families and parishes. Within the Diocese of Superior, we have religious education programs and Catholic elementary schools that rely on grants from the collection each year. Contributing to the collection on the first weekend of Lent provides an opportunity for all Catholics to actively participate in local evangelization programs. This past year our Diocese received a grant for \$60,000 that was made possible only through our local participation in the collection.

I also invite you and your family to participate in Operation Rice Bowl beginning Ash Wednesday, February 17 and continuing throughout Lent. Operation Rice Bowl provides parish resources to bring Lenten spirituality to life for families, parish and school communities while continuing to connect Catholics in the Diocese of Superior with our brothers and sisters in need around the world. Seventy-five percent of your gifts through Operation Rice Bowl support Catholic Relief Services' relief work in 100 countries. Twenty-five percent remain within our diocese. Contact your parish to pick up a Rice Bowl for your Lenten gifts or visit crsricebowl.org to watch videos of the people and communities you support through your Lenten gifts to Operation Rice Bowl and even find special Lenten Recipes.

I ask everyone in the Diocese of Superior to be as generous as possible to Operation Rice Bowl and the Black and Indian Mission Collection this Lent. Together, let us join in the work of the missionaries across the country as our gifts help their support and evangelization efforts.

With warmest personal regards and continuing prayer, I am

Gratefully yours in the Lord,

Most Rev. James P. Powers
Bishop of Superior