



Office of the Archbishop
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February 24, 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Our faith calls us to stand in solidarity with all. We hear this call in the Gospel of Matthew, when Jesus proclaims, “Whatever you did for one of these least brothers or sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matt 25:40). We hear it in the words of Pope Francis, who invites us to build a culture of encounter: “We are called to reach out to those who find themselves living at the margins of our societies and to show particular solidarity with the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters: the poor, the disabled, the unborn and the sick, migrants and refugees, the elderly and the young who lack employment.”

In the spirit of contributing to such a culture here in the Archdiocese of Chicago, I encourage you to participate in the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl program during this upcoming Lenten season. The CRS Rice Bowl program provides resources that bring the Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to life for families, parishes, and school communities.

In 2016, the Archdiocese of Chicago’s generous support enabled CRS to respond to global emergencies in countries such as Columbia, Laos, Rwanda, Honduras, Madagascar, and Haiti. In addition, forty local CRS Rice Bowl grants were distributed to local parishes and organizations which helped to fight hunger and poverty within our own archdiocese. For more information about the CRS Rice Bowl program, the work of Catholic Relief Services, and additional Lenten resources, I encourage you to visit <https://pvm.archchicago.org/human-dignity-solidarity/catholic-relief-services>.

Thank you for your continued participation in the CRS Rice Bowl program. May your faith community experience a true witness of love during this year’s Lenten season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Card. Blase J. Cupich".

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago