



# DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

*Office of the Bishop*

Lent 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we participate in the National Eucharistic Revival, we are called to intentionally reflect on how the Eucharist—the Bread *of* Life—compels us to share bread *for* life with all members of our human family. Through the Eucharist, Jesus calls us into relationship with Him to serve our brothers and sisters most in need.


One longstanding program that can assist us in serving the members of our human family who face the challenges associated with hunger and poverty is the Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) Rice Bowl. This faith-in-action program helps us to more fully live out the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Your contribution to this important program makes a lasting impact. In addition to providing immediate physical nutrition to curb hunger, CRS Rice Bowl programs provide education about sustainable farming practices to ensure that people in more than 120 countries continue to thrive.

In addition to helping our brothers and sisters around the world, 25% of donations to CRS Rice Bowl each year stay in West Michigan to support hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Your donations supported pantries including the Bread of Life Food Pantry and Grandmother's Cupboard Baby Pantry at St. Ann - St. Ignatius Parish in Baldwin, the Caritas Food Pantry through St. Mary Parish in Custer, which serves several counties, and the Mary's Heart Food Pantry run at St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception in Muskegon. Thank you for your generosity in supporting these local efforts!

Please join me in giving alms to the CRS Rice Bowl program this year. Your support can change lives. To learn more, visit [csrtricebowl.org](http://csrtricebowl.org).

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak  
Bishop of Grand Rapids