



**OFFICE OF THE
APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR**

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

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My Dear Friends,

The Lenten season is a time of prayer and sacrifice, a journey which leads us from the desert to the Resurrection. Through the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we focus our hearts and our minds more fully on God and neighbor. Our prayers and fasting lead us closer to God and compel us to share our faith and gifts with others.

Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl program provides us with the opportunity to put our faith-in-action during Lent. As we pray with our families and faith communities, fast in solidarity with those who hunger, and give sacrificial offerings, we deepen our relationship with God and help change the lives of our brothers and sisters in need.

During the past two decades and through your faithful and generous participation in Rice Bowl, we have given 1.2 million dollars for programs overseas and over \$311,000 to parish programs and agencies in our own diocese. Seventy-five percent of alms collected through Rice Bowl fund Catholic Relief Services' development projects overseas. Twenty-five percent of Rice Bowl contributions help alleviate hunger and poverty here at home.

I encourage families and parish communities to participate in Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl this Lenten season. May our prayers and our sacrifices transform our lives and lead us to a deeper encounter with both God and neighbor.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley
Apostolic Administrator