February 21, 2020

“The Good News is no mere matter of words...It is about leaving ourselves behind and encountering others.” - Pope Francis

Dear Parents,
Next Wednesday, we will enter the holy season of Lent. The SJRCS school community will once again participate in the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl program. CRS Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the official relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Through CRS Rice Bowl, faith communities in every diocese throughout the United States put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in roughly 45 different countries each year. 25% of all donations to CRS Rice Bowl stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Since its inception in 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has raised nearly $300 million.

The iconic CRS Rice Bowl is a staple on the table of Catholic families across the country during Lent. This simple cardboard box is a tool for collecting Lenten alms—and comes with a Lenten calendar that guides families through the 40 days of Lent with activities, reflections and stories.

Each day of Lent, individuals are invited to use the Lenten Calendar to guide their Lenten almsgiving. These daily almsgiving activities—for example, give 25 cents for every faucet found in your home—help families reflect on the realities of our brothers and sisters around the world and how they can be in solidarity during the Lenten season.

Today, your family rep is bringing home in their Friday Folder a Rice Bowl. The Rice Bowl has always been a symbol of sacrifice, an important part of our Lenten journey.

There are videos and other resources available at crsricebowl.org of the people and communities your Lenten gifts are helping to change. This year, Catholic Relief Services has also added a CRS Rice Bowl app that includes links to prayers and other CRS resources.

You may send in the Bowl with the coins in it or you may write a check to the school for the amount collected. The collection date for these will be after we return from Easter break on Monday, April 20th.

Sincerely,

Karen Smith
Mrs. Karen Smith
Principal