

## St. Leo Social Justice Page

# SUPPORT RICE BOWL THIS LENT

*“It’s especially important this year for us to step up and support CRS where we can try to fill in the gap to make sure we care for people, because other areas of funding are not available right now to help global communities,” said Jenna Rummelhart, operations director for the archdiocese’s Department of Parish Vitality and Mission.*

Lent this year begins with funding for projects supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development suspended, a move that was announced in one of the first executive orders signed by President Donald Trump on Jan. 20, the day he was inaugurated.

CRS is the U.S. bishops’ international humanitarian agency, and according to its most recent annual report, more than half its annual budget came from USAID. In fiscal year 2023, with a budget of nearly \$1.5 billion, the agency helped more than 210 million people in 121 countries, in areas including health, agriculture, capacity strengthening, water and sanitation, education and emergency response.

While there have been federal court orders to pause the suspension of USAID funding, and the announcement of waivers to deliver some lifesaving aid, much of the 63-year-old agency has been dismantled and reports indicate that aid is not flowing.

“People still have needs that were being met by CRS,” said Jose Coronel, director of the archdiocese’s Office for Human Dignity and Solidarity and associate director of the Department of Parish Mission and Vitality. “Just because there’s a freeze, that doesn’t mean that the needs are gone.”

In an appeal to supporters to contact their congressional representatives, in early February, CRS posted a sample letter on its website that says, “Without this funding, children are being denied lifesaving medications. People are going hungry. Entire communities don’t have access to shelter or clean water. The situation is dire.”

( <https://www.chicagocatholic.com/chicagoland/-/article/2025/02/19/support-for-crs-rice-bowl-this-year-is-critical-leaders-say> )

St. Leo Church has been a champion of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for decades! **During this Lent Season, it is most critical to step up to support those in need around the globe!** Push back against the assault on democratic principles and those made invisible by poverty and apathy!

Give to RICE BOWL TODAY. WE can make a difference and be the GOOD NEWS this world needs!

<https://www.crs.org/>

(\* Holy Thursday Liturgy collections are entirely earmarked for CRS RICE BOWL)

Rick  
Keeper of Bees

### **We are in the Season of Lent: The Face of Jesus**

Please join us for the **Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**. We will begin with a simple soup supper at 5pm in Bix Hall, then at 7pm prayerfully gather in the Church for prayer and thoughtful reflection on the passion of Christ in fearless motion towards Love and forgiveness. For more information, please read the flier in this parish bulletin, check our website or just contact Rick at the Parish Office.

**We are called to speak TRUTH to power!**