

CRS Rice Bowl Lenten program has new twists: an app, recipes, contest

By Patricia Zapor

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON - When trying to change one's eating habits, especially cutting calories, there's nothing like getting some made-to-order recipes from a popular chef to help keep one motivated.

At least that's part of the thinking behind one of the new approaches to Catholic Relief Services' annual [Rice Bowl program for Lent](#).

Weekly recipes created by a celebrity chef of sorts - Father Leo Patalinghug, host of Grace Before Meals, a family apostolate focused around meals - this year have been linked to Rice Bowl, the 39-year-old CRS campaign to raise awareness about hunger and raise funds to combat hunger and poverty.

Five recipes - one for each week of Lent - and short videos about them by Father Patalinghug, a Baltimore archdiocesan priest, that will be available on YouTube or the CRS website will feature low-cost, meatless ingredients, explained Joan Rosenhauer, CRS executive vice president for U.S. operations, at a thematic breakfast Feb. 5. The simple meal on the last day of the annual Catholic Social Ministries Gathering was noted as being typical of breakfast in the Philippines: eggs, rice, bread, juice, fresh tomato and cucumber slices.

Other elements of the program were related to relief work CRS has been doing in the Philippines since Typhoon Haiyan in November wiped out hundreds of thousands of homes, crops and much of the fishing industry in one region of the country.

Traditional dancers and a percussionist from the Philippine Cultural Society at George Washington University, Philippine craft pieces on the dining tables and other elements rounded out what Rosenhauer suggested as a model for how parishes or dioceses might launch their own Rice Bowl campaigns.

In addition to the recipes, CRS has a free Rice Bowl app available for smartphones and tablets. It will allow users to schedule delivery of daily reflections during Lent,

to set and track progress toward a Lenten goal, and view the recipes or see stories about people whose lives have been changed by the program, notes a CRS release. Also this year, CRS will host a photo contest in conjunction with Rice Bowl. Weekly winners will receive a small fair-trade prize and a grand prize winner at the end will receive an Easter basket full of fair-trade items.

In 2013, CRS raised more than \$7 million to support Rice Bowl programs internationally. The dioceses where funds are raised keep 25 percent of the revenue for local needs.

The app can be downloaded at: iTunes and the Google Play Store or at crsricebowl.org/app. Other information about the campaign is available at crsricebowl.org.

Also see:

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