Be Unafraid to Share the Journey this Lent

A young South Sudanese refugee raising her siblings in Uganda’s Bidi Bidi refugee settlement. A father returning home after decades of civil war in Sri Lanka to find his farm overgrown. A young woman unable to find work in Gaza — and forbidden from seeking opportunity abroad. These are just some of the stories participants will explore through CRS Rice Bowl, Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten faith-in-action program.

Following the lead of Pope Francis, CRS Rice Bowl invites Catholics throughout the country to take part in the second year of Share the Journey, a global campaign launched by the pope to raise awareness and inspire action on behalf of migrants and refugees worldwide.

For nearly 45 years CRS Rice Bowl has been sharing the stories of women, men and children with whom CRS works. Built around the Lenten spiritual pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, the program has been a tradition for thousands of Catholic families in every Diocese in the U.S. Every year, people in more than 14,000 faith communities throughout the country are using nearly 4 million ‘rice bowls’ for almsgiving, resulting in nearly $12 million annually — $9 million of which supports CRS programs throughout the world. The remaining $3 million, or 25 percent of total alms collected, stays in the local Diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts.

For individuals like Alejandra Estrada, a parish volunteer in the Diocese of Orange, CRS Rice Bowl isn’t just a charity — it’s a way of living out her Catholic faith. “We are called to announce the Gospel with our actions,” she said. “As Catholics, we should live Lent with a lot of intensity, through moments of prayer, reflection and almsgiving.” An immigrant herself, Estrada understands better than most the kinds of struggles faced by many of the people featured in the CRS Rice Bowl stories. And she’s passionate about bringing those stories to life for her community.

“It’s that connection to those we’ve never met that makes CRS Rice Bowl an integral part of the Lenten journey,” said Beth Martin, director of U.S. Programs for Catholic Relief Services. “Our faith calls us to welcome the stranger and care for those in need. Lent is a perfect time to reflect on our lives and deepen our commitment to our neighbors — both near and far.”

CRS Rice Bowl materials are designed for families, parishes, educators, universities and Dioceses. They are available in print, on the web and through the mobile app — and in both English and Spanish. Follow CRS Rice Bowl on Twitter @CRSRiceBowl, join the CRS Rice Bowl group on Facebook and download the app from the iTunes or Google Play stores.

To learn more about CRS Rice Bowl, visit crsricebowl.org.

—Catholic Relief Services

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. The agency alleviates suffering and provides assistance to people in need in more than 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality. CRS’ relief and development work is accomplished through programs of emergency response, HIV, health, agriculture, education, microfinance and peacebuilding. For more information, visit crs.org or crsespanol.org and follow Catholic Relief Services on social media: Facebook, Twitter at @CatholicRelief, @CRSnews and @CRSnoticias, Instagram, Pinterest and YouTube.

Survey Updates

Disciple Maker Parish Survey
The Disciple Maker Parish Survey, conducted by Catholic Leadership Institute to help parishes develop individual pastoral plans that will lead to vibrant parishes, is due March 31: disciplemakerindex.com.

Feasibility Study Survey
Due to several requests from parishioners, the deadline to complete the Feasibility Study Survey has been extended to April 4. This survey will inform plans for a campaign to support parish and synod priorities. You can access this survey online at steiergroup.com/survey. Click on Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington and enter the password Burlington.
UPCOMING EVENTS

03|24, 25, 26, 27 SUN - WED
St. Mark Lenten Parish Mission
St. Mark, Burlington • 7 - 9 pm
St. Mark Parish is hosting a 4 day mission led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, including Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, and Holy Mass. Special youth event at the St. Mark Bowling Alley on Monday, March 25, at 7 pm. Come be renewed in Christ and deepen your commitment to Jesus and His Church in anticipation of Easter.
FOR MORE INFO: call parish office, (802) 864-7686.

03|25 MONDAY
Youth Ministry Training — Theology of the Body
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 6 - 8 pm
This workshop will give a cursory overview of Saint John Paul II’s "Theology of the Body." The "Theology of the Body" is St. John Paul II's integrated vision of the human person. According to this teaching, the human body has a specific meaning, making visible an invisible reality, and is capable of revealing answers regarding fundamental questions about us and our lives. John Paul II encourages a true reverence for the gift of our sexuality and challenges us to live it in a way worthy of our great dignity as human persons. Presented by Father Jon Schnobrich, Diocesan Vocation Director. This workshop is part of an ongoing series of Youth Ministry trainings happening all over Vermont this year. Please RSVP to wgavin@vermontcatholic.org

03|25, 26 MONDAY & TUESDAY
Evangelization Workshop – Intro to the New Evangelization
St. Jude, Hinesburg • 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Please join us for this special Lenten two-part workshop series with Christopher Poirier on both Monday and Tuesday evenings. The first session will focus on what the New Evangelization is and why we desperately need to incorporate it into parish life today. The second session will get into an in-depth discussion regarding practical implementation and those “best practices” that will ensure its success in energizing and growing a Catholic parish. Evangelization is a top priority for the Burlington Diocese and the Church as a whole. Please join us for this informative and spiritually enriching series.

03|25 MONDAY
Acts of the Apostles
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 7 pm

03|26, 04|02, 09 TUESDAYS
Bishop Robert Barron’s "The Mass"
St. Pius X, Essex Center • 7 - 8 pm
We will view one episode each week in this six-part series. There is no cost to attend this event and all are welcome.

Refreshments and materials provided by the Knights of Columbus. Series ran on March 5, 12 & 19.
RSVP: call St. Pius X office (802) 878-5997 or email John Ludden vtluddens@gmail.com

03|27 - 05|01 WEDNESDAYS
Haitian Creole Lenten Language Class for Beginners
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Parishioner Gillian Compo is facilitating a 6-week Haitian Creole Lenten Language Class for Beginners. All proceeds go to help the poor in Haiti.

03|28 THURSDAY
Bishop Robert Barron’s Catholicism Series
Holy Family, Essex Jct. • 9:30 - 10:30 am
Join us for Episode 4 – Our Tainted Nature’s Solitary Boast. We will play one episode each week, ending on May 16. Series began on March 7.

03|29, 04|12 FRIDAYS
St. Ambrose Lenten Fish Frys
St. Ambrose, Bristol • 5 - 7 pm
Meal includes fried or baked haddock, french fries, coleslaw, beverage & dessert. Adults: $12.50, children 9 and under: $6, immediate family of 5: $37.
FOR MORE INFO: call St. Ambrose (802) 453-2488

03|29 FRIDAY
Knights of Columbus Council 2085 Lenten Fish Fry
St. Andrew, Waterbury • 5 - 7 pm
Hand battered fried fish, French fries, coleslaw, dessert, beverage. Adults $12, 8 and under $6, family of 4+: $35. Calamari available for an extra $7/person. Take-outs available: call (802) 244-5825 after 3:30 PM; pick-ups after 5 PM. Event held at St. Leo Hall, behind the church.

03|29 SATURDAY
Lenten Soup Supper for Haiti
St. John Vianney • 6 - 7 pm
The Haitian Partnership is sponsoring Friday Soup Suppers during Lent. Come have some meatless soup, enjoy some fellowship, and learn about our parish-twinning efforts with the rural community of Boc-Banic, Haiti. We will also be collecting school supplies, clothing, soccer balls, and other goods for the parish schoolchildren. No charge, but free-will donations are gratefully accepted.

03|30 SATURDAY
Silent Day-Retreat
Our Lady of Life Spiritual Center, Saint Paul d’Abbotsford, QC
Teaching given by Father Luke Austin will center on “Mercy in Blessed Father Marie-Eugene.” Time for prayer, reading, walking and resting in the Lord, with Mass and Reconciliation. Lunch is in silence; dinner is joyful fellowship.
FOR MORE INFO: and to register, contact Teresa at email@ourladyoflifeinstitute.org.

For More Info: vermontcatholic.org/careers

DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS
Diocese: Respect Life Coordinator
The Loretto Home, Rutland: Residential Care Positions
St. Joseph Residential Care Home, Burlington: LPN
For More Info: vermontcatholic.org/careers

UPCOMING EVENTS