



## DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR

### OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 2024

Dear Beloved Friends in Christ,

During Lent, a time of reflection on Christ's passion and resurrection, we are called to engage in acts of sacrifice, both big and small. Traditionally, these sacrifices take the form of prayer, fasting, and charitable giving. Within the Diocese of Superior, our parishes actively participate in two significant Lenten initiatives - Operation Rice Bowl and the Black and Indian Mission Collection.

I wholeheartedly encourage you and your families to embrace Operation Rice Bowl, commencing on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024, and continuing throughout Lent. Operation Rice Bowl not only enriches the Lenten spirituality of families, parishes, and school communities but also fosters a connection between Catholics in the Diocese of Superior and our brothers and sisters in need worldwide. Remarkably, 75% of your contributions through Operation Rice Bowl support relief work in 100 countries, while the remaining 25% stays within our diocese. Obtain a Rice Bowl from your parish or visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to witness the impact of your Lenten gifts through videos highlighting the people and communities you support, along with special Lenten recipes.

Additionally, I extend an invitation to support the Black and Indian Mission Collection during the first weekend of Lent, starting on February 18, 2024. Financial backing for this collection plays a pivotal role in sustaining evangelization and education efforts for Indigenous Americans in our Diocese and across the United States. As baptized members of the Church, we are all missionaries for Christ Jesus. The grants from this collection support religious education programs and Catholic elementary schools in our Diocese. Last year, our Diocese received a \$60,000 grant, benefiting two schools and six parishes—a tangible outcome of our local participation in the collection.

I humbly ask each member of the Diocese of Superior to be as generous as possible in supporting Operation Rice Bowl and the Black and Indian Mission Collection this Lent. Together, let us extend our hands to those facing hardships and hunger across the globe, while also actively participating in local evangelization programs that support the vital work of missionaries throughout our country.

With warmest personal regards and ongoing prayers,

Gratefully yours in the Lord,

Most Rev. James P. Powers  
Bishop of Superior