

WEEK 5: UNITED IN GENEROSITY

LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

We are made in God's image and likeness, which means each life is sacred. Every person has the right to life, and we must uphold the dignity of all our sisters and brothers.

STORIES OF HOPE

The Sahel is a region in Africa that spans Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan and Eritrea. In 1976, during a long drought, crops failed, livestock was lost and a lack of food threatened the lives of millions of our sisters and brothers.

It was that same year that Catholics from around the world participated in the 41st International Eucharistic Congress held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Eucharist makes visible our communion with our sisters and brothers and our shared responsibility as one human family.

As Catholics, we believe no person should go hungry. But our world is currently facing levels of hunger that experts believe could be the new normal. That's why it is more important than ever for us to recommit each Lent—and throughout the year—to supporting our global family experiencing these challenges. When we come together to tackle hunger, there is no limit to what we can achieve.



Photo by Radeno Haniel for CRS

FACTS TO CONSIDER

- The International Eucharistic Congress was held Aug. 1-8, 1976, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This was significant because it was the site of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, emphasizing a historic and symbolic connection to the values of freedom and unity during the United States' bicentennial.
- Cardinal Karol Wojtyła—later, Saint John Paul II— Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Dorothy Day were amongst the people that attended the Congress.
- CRS' Lenten program was originally named "Operation Rice Bowl." The name was chosen in part for its abbreviation as "O.R.B.," referring to the Latin word orb, which means "world."



For downloadable photos, visit crsricebowl.org/photos and read the story at crsricebowl.org/week-5.

LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

45 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE

Through this week's story, students will explore the Catholic social teaching principle of Life and Dignity of the Human Person. They'll learn how all people deserve to live with dignity.

MATERIALS

- Week 5 story, available at csrcricebowl.org/week-5.
- A map of the world.
- Week 5 Activity Sheet: Grades 4-6.
- Pencils.

DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

1. Locate Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan and Eritrea on the map.
2. Read the story from week 5.
3. Reflect:
 - What were people in the Sahel region of Africa going through?
 - Why did Catholics in Pennsylvania think it was important to do something about it?
 - How does the Eucharist help us remember our connection with people around the world?
 - Why is it important for us to make sure everyone has plenty to eat?

ACTIVITY (25 MINUTES)

1. Explain the principle of Life and Dignity of the Human Person. We are all children of God and therefore each life is sacred and important. Every person deserves to live a healthy and good life where they can support their family and use the gifts that God gave them.
2. Provide students with a copy of the week 5 Activity Sheet: Grades 4-6.

CLOSING PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Recite together the following prayer, which was the official prayer of the 41st International Eucharistic Congress of 1976.

*Father in heaven,
 You have made us for yourself;
 Our hearts are restless until they rest in you.
 Fulfill this longing through Jesus,
 the Bread of Life,
 So that we may witness to him
 Who alone satisfies the hungers
 of the human family.
 By the power of your Spirit, lead us to the
 heavenly table, where we may feast on the
 vision of your glory for ever and ever.
 Amen*

AT HOME

1. As a family, attend Mass and give thanks to God for nourishing us with his Body and Blood.
2. Discuss:
 - Can you see any resemblance to what Jesus did during the multiplication of loaves and fishes to what the priest does during Mass?
 - At Mass, at the moment of the consecration, a miracle greater than the multiplication of the loaves and fishes happens. What is it?
 - Why do you think the Eucharist is called the "Paschal Banquet"?
 - The Body and Blood of Christ are considered "food for the journey." Why do you think that is?
3. Read and discuss the daily reflection found in your **CRS Rice Bowl Lenten Calendar**.

IF YOU ONLY HAVE

10
MINUTES

1. Read the week 5 story.
2. Lead Discussion step 3.

Name: _____



Use the words in the box below to fill in the Scripture story.

SHEPHERD	LOAVES	GROUPS
BASKETS	DISCIPLES	FARMS
VILLAGES	SATISFIED	HEAVEN

MARK 6:34-44

When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a _____; and he began to teach them many things. By now it was already late and his _____ approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already very late. Dismiss them so that they can go to the surrounding _____ and _____ and buy themselves something to eat." He said to them in reply, "Give them some food yourselves." But they said to him, "Are we to buy two hundred days' wages worth of food and give it to them to eat?" He asked them, "How many _____ do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out they said, "Five loaves and two fish." So he gave orders to have them sit down in _____ on the green grass ... Then, taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to _____, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to [his] disciples to set before the people; he also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were _____. And they picked up twelve wicker _____ full of fragments and what was left of the fish. Those who ate were five thousand men.

Jesus fed the 5,000 people who were listening to him preach. Jesus wants every person to be cared for, since we are all made in the image and likeness of God and have inherent dignity. Write about a time someone helped you or took care of you. How did you feel? What is one way you can care for someone else?
