

Mission Educators Bulletin

Connecting Us in Mission

St. Cloud Mission Office

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"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Martin Luther King Jr.



I am saddened that we have become a people who have made life so challenging and difficult for so many for so many years. Though personally I am not one who has held back, discriminated or treated others differently than myself, I know that I have witnessed others in my life who have, and for that I am sorry. I know that if I would have been around during the Civil rights movement, I would have marched right along with Martin Luther King and others seeking equality. If I had been around during the Civil War, I would have been the advocate assisting men, women and children through the underground railroad. If I had been a woman of color seeking an education and a career outside of the home, I would have fought for my place in the system. Unfortunately, we still continue to do just this- hold people back-keep them in chains though I hope not literally, so that they are not given a

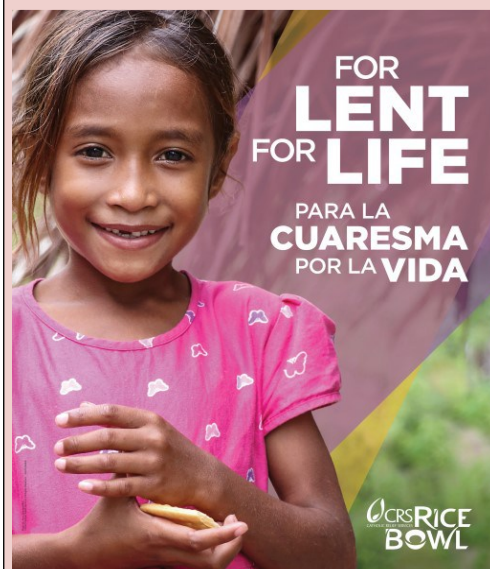
chance for equality, justice, integrity and peace. And we are supposed to be the land of milk and honey, the land of the free and the home of the brave. Why are we afraid to learn from others and learn about others? Do we forget we are all created in Gods image no matter the color of our skin; the place we are born; the way we pray; the career we have; the town we live in; the clothes we wear; the language we speak; the song we sing; the food we eat? A couple of years ago, my husband and I visited Washington DC over my birthday. Every night we plotted out what the next day held for museums, tours, memorials and food. It was unanimously agreed upon that we had to see the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial. Around the grand and inspiring statue of MLK in the middle are 14 quotes from various speeches he gave during his lifetime as he moved throughout the country working for equality, dignity and justice for all. The whole memorial setting with hundreds of people milling about, was quiet and reflective, many overpowered by tears. For anyone who knows about Martin Luther King Jr., he was a simple and humble man from a life very similar to many of us. He chose to be a messenger of good will, good faith, love and peace-a man created in God's likeness just like you and I, who believed in the goodness and beauty of all mankind. Can we be like Martin Luther King Jr. and like so many of the others who have helped define our collective history of these United States, and be the kind of person who is loving and accepting of all for now and into our future?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the 40 days of preparation for the Easter season when we are called to deepen our spiritual lives through the practices of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. The belief is that our consistent participation in these practices, like exercise we do for our physical health, improves our spiritual well-being by stripping away all that is unnecessary and becoming more mindful of how God is working in our lives. Challenge yourself this year, and go beyond the usual practice of "giving up" something. Think about what you usually spend your money on. Do you buy too many clothes? Spend too much on specialty coffees? Pick one type of expenditure that you'll "fast" from during Lent, and then give the money you would usually spend to a local charity. Or take a task on: 40 days of letter writing; 40 acts of kindness; 40 phone calls to the important people in your life.

CRS Rice Bowl

The CRS Rice Bowl is a great way to get students involved in Lent and learning about others around the world! There are lots of great resources at:

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



[crsricebowl.org](https://www.crsricebowl.org) | [crsplatodearroz.org](https://www.crsplatodearroz.org)

February Dates to Remember:

****Black History Month**

1st-National Freedom Day

2nd-Groundhog Day

3rd-National Missing Persons Day

8th -International Day of Prayer and Awareness
Against Human Trafficking

11th- World Day of the Sick

14th -Valentine's Day

17th- Mardi Gras/Ramadan begins

18th - Ash Wednesday/ CRS Rice Bowl Begins

20th-World Day of Social Justice

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

~Frederick Douglas~

