

Mission Educators Bulletin

Connecting Us in Mission

St. Cloud Mission Office

11—8th Avenue South, St. Cloud, MN 56301

(320) 251-1100

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www.stcloudmissionoffice.com

Half the Sky

Within our 40 Days of Lent this year, the month of March has blessed us with a memorable Sunday that is a very important day for half of our world's current population. **International Women's Day, March 8th**, acknowledges and celebrates women around the world who are transforming lives and communities, and invites others to invest in these women through prayer and awareness, encouragement and support, microfinance and microlending, education programs and school fees, personal care and hygiene kits, advocacy, and purchasing of fair trade foods and products, etc.

Former Secretary General to the United Nations, Kofi Annan, puts it very simply:

"There are studies after studies that have taught us that there is no tool for development more effective than the education of girls and the empowerment of women. No other policy is as likely to raise economic productivity, lower infant and maternal mortality or improve nutrition and promote health, including the prevention of HIV/AIDS. When women are fully involved from the beginning of the idea throughout the decision making process and until the completion of the task or idea, the benefits can be seen immediately: families are healthier; their income, savings and reinvestment go up. And what is true of families is true of communities and, eventually, whole countries." It is a proven fact that a woman is a change-agent. She can feed her family, build a business, raise her kids, employ her neighbors. She can inspire sustainable transformation and create a new story for herself, her children and her entire community. A woman is so powerful if given the opportunity and she will most definitely move to change the world. If we ourselves want to make a difference in our world, a great place to start is with our female neighbors both near and far.

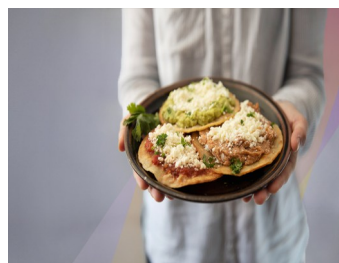


CRS Rice Bowl

There is still plenty of time to participate with your family, friends, and co-workers in the CRS Rice Bowl during Lent while learning about others around the world! Check out all the great resources at:

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

Experience the culture of our sisters and brothers by trying the recipes for your meatless meals from [Ghana](#), [Guatemala](#) and [Timor](#). Give the



money you save by abstaining from meat and eating a simple meal to your Rice Bowl to help our global family overcome hunger.

Mission Education Resources:

This Lenten season, we here in Minnesota, have had particular cause to reflect upon the passion of our Lord as experienced by our immigrant brothers and sisters. The Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers have created a visual "Way of the Cross" presentation in which we are invited to journey in contemplation, prayer and song with those who cross our U.S. borders. To learn more about sharing this presentation with interested schools, youth programs, parishes,...please contact Greg Darr, vocation minister of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers at gdarr@maryknoll.org.

God of Hope,

You journey with us through the desert. You challenge us to become more like Christ.

During this Lenten season, may our prayers, fasting and almsgiving give us the courage to go forth and share our gifts with the world.

May our encounter with you allow us to bring hope to our global family.

Amen



March Dates to Remember:

****Women's History Month**

5th-World Day of Prayer

8th-International Women's Day

14th/15th-Catholic Relief Services Collection which supports the U.S. Bishop's overseas, global and immigrant/refugee ministries

21st-27th-Solidarity with People Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination

22nd-World Water Day

24th-Anniversary of St. Oscar Romero's Death

29th- Palm Sunday



The Passion of the Monarca Migrante

Praying the Way of the Cross with those who cross our U.S. borders