



February 10, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

Peace be with you! On February 17, Ash Wednesday, we will begin the liturgical Season of Lent, a Holy Season of conversion, deepening of our relationship with God and with others through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This is the season when Canadian Catholics are invited to participate in Development and Peace – Caritas Canada's Share Lent campaign. This year's theme is *Share Love, Share Lent*. In this COVID-19 time, it will be another virtual Lent. As a result, this campaign depends on all the faithful to make this a success and especially depends on the priests, to help with announcements and other ways to ensure the participation of parishioners.

As the official international solidarity organization of the Catholic Church in Canada, substantial efforts have been made in the last few months to reinforce the lines of communication and collaboration between the administration of the Canadian Bishops and the National Council of Development and Peace and its Executive Director. One visible change involves having four bishops in the governance structure (National Council) of Development and Peace-Caritas Canada. The goal is to work together ever more fully for the poor and downtrodden of the world by living out the teachings of the social doctrine of the Church faithfully and ensuring that our partners are committed to these teachings as well. I have full confidence in the restructuring process going on in Development and Peace as we strive to strengthen confidence and build trust in its work.

This year's Share Lent theme, *Share Love, Share Lent*, is inspired by the message of love and social fraternity in Pope Francis's encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*. The campaign invites Canadian Catholics to discover how the work of Development and Peace is anchored in Catholic Social Teaching and how we can heed the Pope's call for solidarity and love for our neighbour through its interactive Solidarity Calendar and weekly webinars. I encourage you to use the Solidarity calendar to accompany you throughout Lent.

Since 1967, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) designates the Fifth Sunday as Solidarity Sunday when our annual Share Lent collection will be taken up. On that Sunday, March 21st, along with my brother Bishops from across Canada, I ask you to be generous in donating to Development and Peace so that it continues to support our sisters and brothers in Global South.

The health restrictions may deter many from in-person Mass or only allow reduced-capacity gatherings. I request that all priests promote the Solidarity Sunday in their churches and during online Masses in order to reach parishioners. You can make your donations online at [devp.org/sharelent](http://devp.org/sharelent), or by mailing a cheque to Development and Peace or by calling 1 888 234-8533. Your cheque can be issued in the name of the Diocese of Halifax-Yarmouth, specifying Development and Peace - Caritas Canada and dropped off at the collection box organized in your church or the parish office.

During this Lenten season, let us join our brothers and sisters in the Global South in solidarity and in prayer for a better world. Together, let us share this social friendship as espoused by *Fratelli Tutti*.

With the assurance of my prayers for you and with you this holy season, I remain,

† Brian Joseph Dunn  
Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth