



15 February 2022

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This year, as we approach Ash Wednesday on March 2nd, marking the beginning of Lent, let us remember that the liturgical season of Lent is a season of conversion. It is a time set apart for deepening our relationship with Christ and seeking inner transformation through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

I want to draw your attention to the call to “true ecological conversion” which Pope Francis calls us in his letter, *Laudato Si’*. He writes, “we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” (LS, n. 49). Pope Francis ties together the degradation of the environment with love for the poor and reminds us that the poorest nations in the world suffer the most under the conditions of climate change.

Development and Peace – Caritas is the official international solidarity organization of the Catholic Church in Canada, and its Lenten campaign, *People and Planet First*, helps us reflect on how to respond to these cries. This year, Development and Peace is inviting Canadian Catholics to join in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Global South who are feeling the most significant impacts of the changing climate. Development and Peace is highlighting the work of their partners who, despite their challenges, are finding ways to live in harmony with their environment. In Madagascar, for example, one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, D&P implemented 51 climate change adaptable microprojects. Hundreds have benefited from workshops on climate adaptation practices like composting, agroecology, urban agriculture, making biomass charcoal and rearing flood resistant livestock.

Since 1967 the CCCB has set aside the fifth Sunday of Lent as Solidarity Sunday, April 3rd, when each parish across Canada takes a special collection. I encourage you to give generously in support of the *People and Planet First* campaign. The health restrictions may deter many from attending in-person Mass, so I request that all priests promote Solidarity Sunday in their churches on the 5th Sunday of Lent and online to reach their parishioners. Donations can also be made via online at [DONATE](#), by mailing a cheque, or by calling 1-888-234-8533.

The Development and Peace campaign gives us a chance to live a rich Lenten experience by uniting in solidarity with impoverished and oppressed people of the world. To this end, Lenten resources such as Prayers of the Faithful, Stations of the Cross etc. are available [HERE](#). I encourage parish priests and pastoral teams to use the liturgical resources provided by Development and Peace, so that you can share this message of solidarity, and conversion in your parishes and faith communities.

This Lent, let us join in solidarity as we place the *people and the planet* at the heart of our Lenten journey.

Sincerely in Christ,

†Brian Joseph Dunn
Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth