



Office of the Bishop

DIOCESE OF SAINT JOHN

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SHARE LOVE SHARE LENT CAMPAIGN

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During the season of Lent we are urged in a particular way to look to the needs of others. Pope Francis tells us, “the guarantee of an authentic openness to God...is a way of practicing the faith that helps open our hearts to our brothers and sisters.” (*Fratelli Tutti* 74) It is in this spirit that I urge you to prayerfully consider supporting the Share Lent Campaign through Development & Peace – Caritas Canada.

With the entire human family suffering the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s Share Lent campaign invites us to share love and express solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Global South, whose vulnerabilities are being exacerbated by the pandemic. Christian charity compels us to help: “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40)

Share Lent has been a tradition in Canadian parishes since 1968. It was established by the CCCB to embody the two pillars of social action—charity and justice. An organizational renewal process over the past year has resulted in the implementation of safeguards to ensure that the Catholic identity, vision, mission and expectations of Development and Peace are upheld. This allows them to continue the good work they do in service of the most vulnerable populations, where the effects of the pandemic are felt most deeply.

Next weekend (March 20/21 - Solidarity Sunday) marks the annual Share Lent special collection to support Development & Peace’s vital work with partners in the Global South. Your generous support may be provided through ongoing automatic monthly withdrawals with D & P (Share Year Round), the specially designated offertory envelope, or by using the Solidarity Sunday Share Lent collection envelopes often provided at the entrances.

As we journey towards the hope of the Resurrection, may we be filled with gratitude for the gift of salvation that Jesus offers to each of us. May we respond generously to the needs of others as we are able.

Mary, Health of the Sick, pray for us!

Yours truly in Christ,

✠ Most Rev. Christian Riesbeck, CC
Bishop of Saint John

March 5, 2021