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Office of the Bishop

February 3, 2024

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. The Holy Father tells us that “Only the person who feels happiness in seeking the good of others, in desiring their happiness, can be a missionary. This openness of the heart is a source of joy, since ‘it is more blessed to give than to receive’ (Acts 20:35)” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, par. 272). It is in this spirit that I urge you to prayerfully consider supporting the Share Lent Campaign through Development & Peace – Caritas Canada.

The theme for the 2024 campaign, *Reaping our Rights*, builds on the five-year theme introduced last year entitled *Create Hope*. Through this campaign we are invited to be mindful of impoverished populations (particularly rural populations) that are facing growing challenges due to climate change, land grabbing, resource theft, soil contamination and armed conflict. Development and Peace — Caritas Canada supports them in defending their rights to life, land, water, biodiversity, justice, health, participation, decent livelihoods, a healthy environment and more.

You can assist in this effort by giving generously to Share Lent (on Solidarity Sunday, March 17, 2024, the 5th Sunday of Lent). Further resources to support this campaign can be found at <https://devp.org/en/campaign/reaping-our-rights/resources-lent-2024/>.

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, Queen of Peace, pray for us!

Yours truly in Christ,

✠ Christian Riesbeck, CC
Bishop of Saint John