



DIOCESE OF SAINT JOHN

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Office of the Bishop

February 19, 2025

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 2025 campaign, ***Turn Debt into Hope***, urges decision-makers to prioritize people and planet over mere profit and demand debt justice for communities crushed by unjust and unpayable debts. Noting that more than 100 countries in the Global South are facing a debt crisis, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada encourages us to act to stop this crisis by cancelling and restructuring unjust and unsustainable debt and prevent other debt crises from happening by addressing their root causes.

You can assist in this effort by giving generously to Share Lent (on Solidarity Sunday, April 6, 2025, the 5th Sunday of Lent). Further resources to support this campaign can be found at <https://devp.org/en/campaign/turn-debt-into-hope>. /.

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