



Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Office of the Archbishop

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March 22, 2022

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The theme of this year's Share Lent campaign is *People and Planet First*. In a certain sense, the Lenten Season is one in which we are encouraged to reflect on God as the Creator of all and our relationship with him. This means that the physical environment in which we live and our neighbours who live with us, form that garden of relationships first referred to in Genesis: *"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it"* (Genesis 2:15). To live our relationship with our Creator more profoundly requires at the same time, an ecological conversion to right and just relationships within God's creation.

Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, the spiritual disciplines of Lent, we might consider more deeply our relationship with the Lord and with those with whom we are neighbours. Inspired by the good efforts of partners in Honduras, Cambodia and Madagascar, Catholic Canadians continue to be inspired by efforts leading to ecological sustainability. This includes the cause of social justice defending the poor against the destruction of lands and forests. The ever-present encroachment of mining companies and the effect on the environment has produced real difficulties for the poor and the land on which they live.

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada supports grassroot organizations in Asia, Latin-America, the Middle East and Africa with projects that further the values of Catholic Social Teaching by mobilizing Canadians in parishes, communities and schools.

During this Season of Lent, we are invited to consider alms giving with Development and Peace-Caritas Canada in mind. Development and Peace is encouraging Catholics to consider a donation during Solidarity Sunday, April 3, 2022. Development and Peace is also encouraging us to become a *Share Year-Round Donor*. Those who become donors through Ash Wednesday (March 2) through Pentecost (June 5), will have their donations matched by religious communities and donors. For more information, to view the materials and resources for your parish, or to become a donor, please visit www.devp.org

This Lent, let us continue our efforts in encouraging right relationships with our neighbours in the global south and with the creation that God has blessed us with.

Yours in Christ,

✠Richard Gagnon
Archbishop of Winnipeg