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(Pastoral Note 4 / 2023)

Share Lent Campaign Development and Peace – Caritas Canada (DPCC) 2023

My Dear Clergy and My Dear People

When the Canadian Bishops founded Development and Peace in 1967, they wanted to create an organization that would help build a better world. It would allow Catholics and people of goodwill to engage in the work of bringing about a more just sharing of the gift of God's creation and resources of the world with the most impoverished of our brothers and sisters especially those in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and in the Middle East. Development and Peace has been carrying out this mission for the past 55 years, helping to reach out and build international solidarity based on our Catholic social teachings.

At the heart of Development and Peace's transformative work are the education, action, and fundraising campaigns that bring thousands of Canadians together every year. This year Development and Peace is launching a new five-year theme under the banner - **Create Hope**.

This theme comes from a quote of Pope Francis where he invites participants in the IV (4th) World Meeting of Popular Movements to dream and work together through solidarity and subsidiarity in order to build a better society. He said, "I like to call you this: Social Poets," he explained, "because you have the ability and the courage to **create hope** where there appears to be only waste and exclusion. Poetry means creativity, and you **create hope**." "With your hands, you know how to forge the dignity of each person, of families and of society as a whole, with land, shelter, work, care, and community."

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-10/pope-popular-movements-poets-solidarity-subsidiarity-hope.html#:~:text=In%20a%20video%20message%2C%20Pope,from%20the%20Covid%2D19%20pandemic.>

In this first year of this new campaign from January to December, to *Create Hope*, we are called upon to *Stand for the Land*. Many communities around the world desperately want to protect their land, a source of life and hope. For example, in Columbia, over the last four years almost a thousand community leaders and human rights defenders have been assassinated and countless others have risked their lives defending their territory against ecological social and cultural harm from forces like industrial agriculture or mining industry.

This is why we invite you to become involved with Development and Peace to help such people in the Global South, *Stand for the Land*. We are invited to share our solidarity with those who defend the lands, waters, and forests that sustain them, as well as the culture, history, and identity that defines them.

On March 26, we will celebrate Solidarity Sunday. I invite you to ***Create Hope*** by giving generously support the 2023 Share Lent collection in our diocese. You are invited to donate through your Share Lent envelope or online.

If you have not yet ordered the free Share Lent materials for your parish, you can do so at

<https://www.devp.org/en/campaign/stand-for-the-land/resources/>

If you have any questions about the campaign or the Share Lent materials, you are invited to contact our Regional DPCC animator, Adah Ogbe at aogbe@devp.org.

Thank you for your prayers and generous support.

Faternally,

+ Wayne Kirkpatrick

Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick