



10 March 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Each year the Fifth Sunday of Lent is ‘Solidarity Sunday’, the weekend selected by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops for a national collection for Development and Peace’s Share Lent Campaign. This time last year this collection was not able to be held due to the pandemic, which resulted in a huge underfunding of D&P operations and their support to identified projects.

You also know that over the past couple of years, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and Development and Peace have worked diligently to resolve tensions around sponsorship partners. This has resulted in a clear acceptance of the moral and social integrity of Development and Peace partners and an agreeable process for accepting new partners. The joint communiqué on this matter, released on February 25th, can be found at <https://www.devp.org/en/pressroom/2021/comm2021-02-25>.

The season of Lent invites us to engage in the traditional practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These practices strengthen the virtues of faith, hope and charity. Almsgiving in particular links more closely to those in need. I call on you and your parishes to participate wholeheartedly in this year’s *Share Love, Share Lent* campaign - inspired by Pope Francis’s newest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*. Using the parable of the Good Samaritan as an example, Pope Francis writes, “All of us have a responsibility for the wounded, those of our own people and all the peoples of the earth. Let us care for the needs of every man and woman, young and old, with the same fraternal spirit of care and closeness that marked the Good Samaritan” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 79).

The global pandemic is now into its second year. While we in Canada are affected in myriad ways, such suffering is more deeply felt by our many brothers and sisters living in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

I ask you to give as you can on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 21st, and equally to share in the learning, fasting and prayer opportunities provided by Development and Peace and found on their website at <https://www.devp.org/en/region-events/sharelent2021>. To donate or find out more about how you can make a difference in this year’s *Share Love, Share Lent* campaign, visit: <https://www.devp.org/en/campaign/sharelove>. I thank you in advance for your generosity. May the rest of this holy Lenten season see you and your loved ones richly blessed.

Yours sincerely in Christ the Redeemer,

Most Rev. Gerard Pettipas, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan