



The 2015 Share Lent Campaign

"One human family, food for all"

Pope Francis

Dear parishes and missions,
Dear faithful in Christ,

The fight against hunger is a vital endeavour for all of humanity. Hunger and malnutrition have disastrous effects upon the development of children and young people. In adults, chronic weakness significantly reduces the energy needed to be able to work and live. Fighting world hunger means contributing to the health of families and to the proper functioning of development organizations operated by the people receiving international aid. Development and Peace is present at the grassroots, working with locally based organizations. In this way Development and Peace is able to act with generosity and humility in supporting initiatives emerging from underprivileged sectors and to promote genuine solidarity with local partners.

For Christians, the fight against hunger is indispensable. Jesus gave the example of love for the poor and both in the gospels and in the stories of the Church's saints, Jesus is presented as inviting us to become closer to the poor. Indeed, one cannot be a disciple of Christ without living in solidarity with the poor. Solidarity is not an occasional activity, it is a way of life. Solidarity is not a practice that comes only when we can afford to, it is a virtue to be lived out by all of us, even when we are worried about the future. Think about the example of the poor widow, who in contributing a coin, gave from what she needed to live, not from her surplus.

In this 2015 Share Lent Campaign, I invite every parish to renew its commitment to supporting the efforts of Development and Peace towards the elimination of hunger. By participating in this campaign, culminating in the fifth Sunday of Lent, you will help communicate that the Church is still concerned about the well-being of poor people and you will become a community actively engaged in promoting the fundamental human right to food.

May this season of Lent become for each Christian community and every baptized person, a time of conversion and a deepening encounter with Christ through prayer, the Eucharist and the poor.

May God bless you and keep you in his Peace,

+ *Christian Lépine*

+ Christian Lépine
Archbishop of Montreal
18 February 2015