



Archbishop Christian Lépine of Montreal encourages parishes, missions and all the faithful to participate in Development and Peace – Caritas Canada’s Share Lent 2022.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What comes “before everything”? It is the Word, by whom all things were made, as St. John says at the beginning of his Gospel. It is by Him, with Him and in Him – the Word, the Christ – that rebirth is made possible. Rebirth of the Spirit, for whom and for what? For us, God gave his Son and Christ gave his life. What great gifts! What great love! And is this not the same Jesus Christ who identifies with those among us who have no food or water, no clothing or shelter?

This year, Development and Peace would like to invite us to a Share Lent with the theme of: “People and Planet First.” For God so loves the world that He gives us his Spirit, so that we may love one another and, together as one human family, take care of our common dwelling-place, Earth.

This Season of Lent, let us hear “both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” (Pope Francis); let us join together with our Development and Peace partners in Madagascar, Cambodia and Honduras, in order to better understand how these women and men confront famine, exploitation and ecological and climate-related upheaval. Let’s waste no time in getting hold of the related information or visiting the website: www.devp.org. There is plenty of room for all to get involved in this great movement.

Dear parishes and dear missions, our boat is being tossed, but “*I AM*” is with us, and He is with his people. Perhaps you might be disappointed to see fewer donations coming in to Development and Peace than was the case before the pandemic. But many of the faithful have taken to giving directly to the organization. Your role, nevertheless, is of no less importance! I am counting on you, not only for the annual campaign on April 3, the fifth Sunday of Lent, but also to convey a variety of messages and suggestions throughout the Season of Lent: such as the Share Lent calendar, Thinkfast, etc. I

encourage you to use these in your communications and to keep them in mind in your pastoral and liturgical activities.

I am grateful to you for having answered my call on behalf of Share Lent 2021. In our diocese, a total of \$362,191 was raised. This represents an increase of 10% over 2020, in spite of the fact that all our churches were closed. And that amount is almost 90% of the total received in 2020, pre-pandemic. Responding to the drop in donations, volunteers with Development and Peace have launched new fund-raising initiatives, selling products from the abbeys, cheeses at Christmas and chocolates for Lent. Religious communities doubled their monthly donations of the previous year, and they are intending to do so again this year. Apart from emergency relief efforts, funds collected through the Share Lent campaign also enable Development and Peace's partners throughout 27 countries to carry out 85 projects assisting the poor in asserting their dignity, meeting their needs and defending their rights. I am very moved to observe how, in spite of circumstances, we have been able to unite and walk together in solidarity.

May the Lord bless you, and may He bless Development and Peace and all its partners.

+ Christian Lépine

Archbishop of Montreal

P.S. To give: devp.org/contribute;

To participate or request information, materials etc.: devp.org/share-lent;

To place orders: comms@devp.org