

This **Lent**,
let's put



Tang Min, Khmer farmer residing in Monduliri province, Cambodia (Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand)

Share
Lent 2022



Development
and Peace

CARITAS CANADA

Who are we?

Established in 1967, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada is the official international solidarity organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. We are inspired by the values of Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the preferential option for the poor.

We partner with organizations in the Global South that promote alternatives to unjust social, political and economic structures and support women in their quest for equality and justice. In Canada, we are organized as a democratic movement of volunteer members. Our members help Canadians understand the root causes of impoverishment and mobilize them to act for change.

Seeing, judging, acting during Share Lent

Share Lent is Development and Peace's moment of solidarity, when we raise funds in parishes across Canada to support our mission. This Lent, we invite you to walk in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Global South by using the Catholic method of reflection to:

- **SEE** how your gifts transform lives in Madagascar, Honduras and Cambodia;
- **JUDGE** the impact of your solidarity on the world; and
- **ACT** by choosing to give from the heart.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

I encourage you to respond enthusiastically to the invitation of Share Lent 2022, which is being organized by Development and Peace — Caritas Canada under the theme *People and Planet First*. This campaign is an expression of the Gospel message and of the Church's social teaching, both of which take into consideration the integral development of the human person.

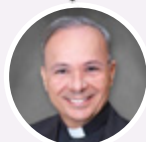
The funds that are gathered then will allow Development and Peace to fulfill its mission and to transform lives in almost 30 countries around the world. Therefore, I invite you, in Christ's name, to support the Share Lent 2022 campaign.

Fraternally in our Lord,



† Raymond Poisson

Bishop of Saint-Jérôme and Mont-Laurier
President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB)



* Excerpted from the CCCC President's message of support, which is available at devp.org/lent/resources.

SEE

First Sunday of Lent

"we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression."

— Deuteronomy 26:7

Development and Peace around the world



A network of over
11,000 members
in Canada



More than 85 community
development and humanitarian aid
projects in **27 countries**



15.6 million people reached
by our programs in the
Global South

Four themes we work on



Democracy and
citizen participation



Ecological
justice



Peace and
reconciliation



Justice
for women

Visit devp.org/lent/resources to learn more about Development and Peace and to discover other Share Lent content, including weekly reflections, the Way of the Cross, video testimonies and the Solidarity Calendar for children.

Second Sunday of Lent

**"Then from the cloud came a voice that said,
'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!'"**

— Luke 9:35

An ecological village to cope with climate change

Madagascar is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change. Our partner, the Development Council of Andohatapenaka (CDA), operates in a part of the country that, being lashed by heavy rains, is often flooded and insalubrious.

Amid these multiple vulnerabilities, CDA raises awareness and mobilizes people to manage and transform their neighbourhoods. Together, they rehabilitated a contaminated area into a community garden and implemented 51 climate change adaptation microprojects in the capital region. Residents of one of the area's most vulnerable neighbourhoods were also trained and equipped to turn their community into an ecological village developed by and for residents. Today, each of the village's 50 households has a vegetable garden, a stove and solar panels. This transformation reflects a true ecological conversion.



Your donation in action in Madagascar

"Thanks to CDA, I learned how to use compost to help my garden grow. It was the fruit of my new crops that sustained my family when we didn't have food. When we are short of money, I can also sell some of these crops."

— Solotina Voahangy Aimé, village resident



Development and Peace's partnership with CDA has strengthened people's resilience to the impacts of climate change. This is in line with CDA's mission of reinforcing local governance and fostering social cohesion and responsible citizenship.

In the ecological village and in communities involved in the microprojects, hundreds have benefited from workshops on climate adaptation practices like composting, agroecology, urban agriculture, making biomass charcoal and rearing flood-resistant livestock.



"What makes the collaboration between Development and Peace and CDA special is that the beneficiaries of the project participate. They don't wait for us to give them something. They are both beneficiaries and actors in the realization of their initiatives."

— Hanta Manana, project manager, CDA

Québec 

This project was realized with financing from the Government of Quebec and meets the objectives of its 2030 Plan for a Green Economy.



Third Sunday of Lent

"...let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."

— Luke 13:8-9

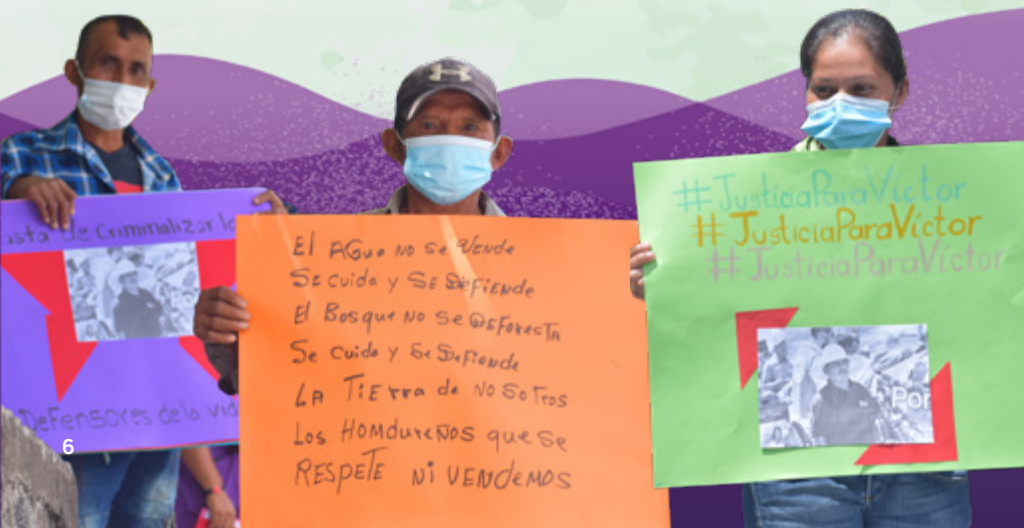
The power of mobilized citizens

In many countries of the Global South, activists are often threatened and criminalized for claiming the right to a healthy environment. Such was the case of Víctor Vásquez, a Lenca Indigenous leader who was imprisoned for fighting the corporate takeover of the ancestral territory in Honduras to which his community held state-recognized titles.

To support human rights defenders like Víctor and to ensure greater corporate social responsibility, Development and Peace has launched the *People and Planet First* campaign. Its advocacy component calls the federal government to enact strong laws that would compel Canadian companies to respect human and environmental rights across their global operations.

Around the world, momentum for this cause has accelerated to the point that in October 2021, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution making the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment an internationally recognized right. That same month, Víctor Vásquez was released from prison, thanks to community mobilization and a strong team of lawyers that Development and Peace supported. However, the charges against him have not been dropped.

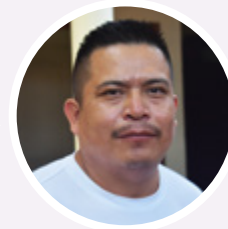
The struggle continues!



Your action in Canada

"I thank you, my brothers and sisters, because you have contributed to nourish my sense of strength in this prison. In that penitentiary I did not feel alone, I felt strong because of the warmth of the support provided by all my brothers and sisters at the national and international level."

— Víctor Vásquez, upon his release from prison on October 15, 2021



One of Development and Peace's strengths is our ability to mobilize thousands of Canadians like you to amplify the voices of communities that our partners serve in the Global South. This is what our partners are asking us to do: get Canada to change its rules and procedures, so that abuses cannot be perpetrated in their countries.

In recent months, thousands signed our petition for corporate due diligence laws and committed members met their MPs to press this issue with the Canadian government.



Montreal youth group member Violaine Paradis (centre) was excited to meet her Hochelaga constituency MP, Soraya Martinez Ferrada (left), for the first time, accompanied by Development and Peace animator Lore Bolliet (right).

←



You can still sign the petition at devp.org/act.



Fourth Sunday of Lent

"But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

— Luke 15:32

Standing up to mining companies

Because the rapid expansion of mining is contributing to deepening social problems like poverty and violence, 35 municipalities across Honduras have declared themselves resource extraction-free zones. Initiated by open consultation and valid for three years, such declarations establish a community's firm opposition to extractive projects.

Candidates for a recent mayoral election in the municipality of Orocuina, in the region where our partner Caritas Choluteca operates, were invited to follow this path. They undertook to open a consultation to keep Orocuina free of resource extraction activities if elected.



Your donation in action in Honduras



"Last December, a metal mining company set up on the banks of the Choluteca River. Thanks to the accompaniment offered by several community organizations, we were able to bring about the company's exit from the area a few weeks later."

— German Chirinos, Southern Social Environmental Movement for Life (Massvida), a grassroots ally of Caritas Choluteca

Caritas Choluteca trains and accompanies community leaders and supports their advocacy for policies that respect human rights.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Solidarity Sunday

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

— Isaiah 43:19

Restoring nature's bounty... naturally

It is said that giving someone a fish feeds them for a day; but teaching them to fish feeds them for life. But what can a community do if the waters it has expertly fished for generations start running out of fish?

That was the situation of two villages in Cambodia until our partner, Development and Partnership in Action (DPA), stepped in. With its focus on enabling people-centred sustainable development, DPA helped the villagers establish community fisheries to save fish brood stocks and revitalize the river ecosystem.

25-year-old Srey Packly*, who joined the project in 2016, said, "I received training on the usefulness of... protecting fish sanctuaries. I learned about the best times to fish and about fishing tools to catch fish in a sustainable manner." This helped her family enjoy year-round food security and an augmented income.

* In Khmer names, the last name is followed by the first name.

"The community fisheries project was greatly beneficial to us and to our generation. Thank you very much to DPA and to the donors for supporting my family and fellow villagers to have fresh and healthy fish to eat and to improve our livelihoods."

— Srey Packly, Kampong Thom province, Cambodia



On this Solidarity Sunday, let's ensure that future generations always have fish to catch and food to harvest.

This Lent, let's give from the heart to put people and planet first.

JUDGE

ACT

Despite the threats to their territories from climate change, pollution and land-grabbing, our partners and our sisters and brothers in the Global South manage to adapt, to stand up and to represent the beauty of humanity. How do the stories that you see in these pages speak to your own faith and the way God calls you to be in solidarity with the human family?

For us to live in harmony with nature, one another and God, we must put people and the planet first and commit to what Pope Francis calls an ecological conversion. "An ecological conversion can inspire us to greater creativity and enthusiasm in resolving the world's problems and in offering ourselves to God" (*Laudato Si'*, 220).

Take a moment this Lent to reflect on your own ecological conversion. How are you called to change your relationships to people, planet and our Creator? We hope you are touched and inspired by our partners' initiatives. Together, let us ensure that our human family cares for all of Creation.

One way to support Development and Peace's work is to give generously to Share Lent.

It is good to reflect on the purpose, impact and significance of one's gift, especially in the context of our Christian faith. Quebec theologian Lise Baroni Dansereau sees giving not as an act of charity, but as distributing "the wealth that belongs to everyone."

Thanks to your support and commitment, Development and Peace can inform and inspire Canadians and stand in solidarity with vulnerable and marginalized people in the Global South. It is only by joining forces that we can create alternatives to unjust social, political and economic structures and ensure that people and the planet come first.

Your support is essential!



DONATE MONTHLY

Become a *Share Year-Round* member

One of the best ways to support Development and Peace is to become a *Share Year-Round* member. Your monthly donations reduce our administrative costs and allow us to plan longer-term transformative work in the Global South. You also become an official member of the organization, joining over 11,000 people who share your values and your desire to build a world of justice and peace!

This Lent, double your impact!



A year's worth of new monthly donations pledged to Development and Peace from Ash Wednesday to Pentecost (i.e., March 2 to June 5, 2022) will be **matched dollar for dollar**. See our website for details.

A testimonial from a *Share Year-Round* member



"I give to Development and Peace as an expression of my Catholic faith instilled in me by my mother and father... I have seen the work of partners firsthand, when I went on a solidarity tour to Bolivia. The generosity of the Bolivian partners and the people was overwhelming."

— Helen MacDonald, Grande Prairie, Alta.



ASK YOUR NETWORK TO

spread solidarity

A few minutes is all it takes to start your own online fundraising page and share it with friends and family for **Spreading Solidarity**. Our online donation platform is secure, simple and powerful. Why not try it during the Good Friday challenge or on your birthday?

An inspiring story

Last Lent, students in Ontario's Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board raised over \$9,000 from online fundraising pages! "It was amazing to see the number of students who volunteered for such a great cause," recounted Board employee Lucia Marchionda.

→ **Learn more about monthly giving and online fundraising at devp.org/lent/act.**

Your donations transform lives!

Your unwavering support is the foundation of our movement for global solidarity. Your donations touch the hearts and lives of vulnerable communities across the Global South. Together, let us act to put *People and Planet First!*

This Lent, give from the heart:

- Online at devp.org/give
- During the **Share Lent parish collection**
- By calling **1 888 234-8533**
- By **mailing a cheque** (made out to Development and Peace) to:
1425 René-Lévesque Blvd. West, 3rd floor, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1T7



*"I give because they are my brothers and sisters....
[The money] allows them to lift their heads and regain
hope through the tools of liberation and healing that
Development and Peace provides."*

— Monique Arrien, Diocese of Quebec, Que.

*"During a disastrous flood in Brazil, I personally
experienced the three-phase accompaniment of
Development and Peace's partner, Caritas Brazil.
For the building of 50 homes, they checked
the accounting, the process and the end result.
They also helped to build peace in the community."*

— Fr. Emile April, Diocese of Saskatoon, Sask.



Thank you for your generosity!

Follow us on social media for more content, reflection, action and challenges this Lent!



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#SpreadingSolidarity
#Peopleplanetfirst
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