



Catholic Diocese of Victoria

Office of the Bishop

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February 15, 2024

Dear Pastors and Pastoral Administrators,

As the season of Lent begins, I write today to introduce the 2024 Share Lent Campaign. Share Lent is a time to highlight the mission of *Development and Peace – Caritas Canada* (DPCC), the official international solidarity organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. It provides an opportunity for the faithful to learn about the causes of poverty and injustice in the world, to pray and get involved for peace, and to give generously so DPCC may continue its work with the poorest and most marginalized in our human family.

This year's campaign, "Reaping our Rights", aims to build solidarity with small-scale farmers and peasant communities worldwide, recognizing their crucial role in global food production and rural development. Peasant communities face numerous challenges such as armed conflicts, land grabbing, and climate change, threatening their rights to land, water, justice, and a safe environment. The campaign seeks to raise awareness and advocate for the protection of these rights.

In line with Pope Francis' message of interconnectedness, Canadians are called to support peasants' rights globally. I encourage you to support the Share Lent campaign in your parishes by facilitating spoken announcements before Mass, written announcements in your parish bulletins and on your web pages, and by asking parishioners to donate on Solidarity Sunday, March 17th. Resources for Share Lent 2024 can be found online at <http://www.devpc.org/lent>.

At the request of my brother Bishops who are members of the DPCC National Council, and with the approval of the CCCB Executive Committee, I also invite you to participate in an online Share Lent clergy information session on Tuesday, March 5 from 10:30 – 11:30 am PT. DPCC relies on your support for the success of the Share Lent campaign, which is vital to our ability as the Church in Canada to raise much needed funds to support those who suffer from poverty and injustice in the global south. In this information session, you will learn how to support and encourage your parishioners to help make Share Lent a success. The session can be joined via Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85157171909?pwd=OXYxQWErNGhieKV3MXIzL1VIUWYxQT09>

Let us embody Christ's love through our generosity and solidarity, working towards righteousness and justice for all.

In Communion,

Most Reverend Gary Gordon
Bishop of Victoria