



Catholic Diocese of Victoria
Office of the Bishop

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Dear People of God,

On our journey through this year's *Share Lent Campaign*, we focus on the Amazon and its peoples. In his homily from the concluding Mass of the Pan-Amazonian Synod, our Holy Father suggests that:

The cry of the poor is the Church's cry of hope. When we make their cry our own, we can be certain our prayer, too, will reach to the clouds.

- Homily of Pope Francis,
concluding Mass of the Pan-Amazonian Synod, 27 October 2019

Pope Francis extended this idea of an organically living earth in *Laudato Si'* when he described the Congo basins and the Amazonian forest as living and breathing, as the richly biodiverse lungs of our planet (Pope Francis, May 24, 2015, *Laudato Si'*, para. 38). This delicate balance must be preserved and maintained "for we cannot overlook the huge global economic interests which, under the guise of protecting them, can undermine the sovereignty of individual nations." To consciously damage the delicate balance of the people and the eco-system for economic gain will be to the detriment of humanity.

As stewards of this planet and its people, please contribute to the special collection for the *Share Lent Campaign* in support of providing assistance to the Amazonian Indigenous and the *seringueiros* of Brazil. This collection will occur on the 5th Sunday of Lent which will fall on March 29, 2020. In addition, to educate and inspire action in your parish community I encourage you to use the resources available from the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) website at <https://www.devp.org/en/lent/resources>.

In Communion,

Most Reverend Gary Gordon
Bishop of Victoria