



6 March 2020

Re: Share Lent Campaign 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

As we move deeply into the season of Lent, we are called to be conscious of new opportunities to grow closer to God. With this process comes the opportunity to grow closer to God's people and to His Creation - our common home.

I am writing to you to express my support for Development and Peace -- Caritas Canada's 2020 Share Lent campaign, and to encourage your support and participation. This year during Lent the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace-Caritas Canada is adding its voice to those of Pope Francis and the Caritas Internationalis organizations across the world by inviting Canadians to reflect on the theme *For Our Common Home*, with a focus on the Amazon region and the threats that mining and other extractive industries create for its inhabitants.

In this campaign *For Our Common Home*, Development and Peace amplifies Pope Francis's message that today, our relationship with God's creation is wounded and that our common planetary home is falling into ruin due to human destruction. We are on the brink of an unprecedented global challenge regarding sustainability of our common home, which places a question mark on the very future of human civilization. Pope Francis calls this rupture of the relationship between humankind and God's creation "ecological sin". The campaign *For Our Common Home* reminds us all that, although we are all touched by the effects of ecological imbalances, the communities of vulnerable and poor people, especially those of the Global South, suffer greater effects. Through this campaign, we are invited to connect compassionately with the Amazon, often referred to as "the lungs of the Earth" and to the Seringueiros, Mura and other vulnerable Indigenous peoples who, as brave witnesses of Christ, struggle every day to protect our common home, and suffer threats to their livelihoods and lives as a result.

Development and Peace-Caritas Canada has prepared excellent liturgical and educational resources to help deepen our understanding of the issues impacting the Amazon. These can be found at www.devp.org/lent/resources. During Lent, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops designates the Fifth Sunday as *Solidarity Sunday*, when our annual Share Lent collection will be taken up. On the Sunday, March 29th, I ask that you please be generous in donating to Development and Peace, so that the courage of those who defend *Our Common Home* is strengthened by our solidarity with them. If you should wish to further support the work of Development and Peace around the world throughout the year, I encourage you to become a Share Year Round member. Your gift in solidarity with the poor is vital to the mission of Development and Peace and its ability to help promote social justice within communities in the Global South.

May our material support to the Share Lent Campaign show our spiritual commitment to the just and peaceful protection of our common home.

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "+ Gerard Pettipas, C.Ss.R.", with a small flourish at the end.

Most Rev. Gerard Pettipas. C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan