



February 11, 2026

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lent is a time of fasting, giving and anticipation. It is also a special time to remember God's presence in the poor, which encourages us to act with charity, generosity and justice. A core component of our Catholic Social Teaching is the preferential option for the poor. In *Dilexi Te*, Pope Leo XIV explains, "wanting to inaugurate a kingdom of justice, fraternity and solidarity, God has a special place in his heart for those who are discriminated against and oppressed, and he asks us, his Church, to make a decisive and radical choice in favor of the weakest" (§16).

This Lent, as usual, I invite you to be in solidarity with the poor by supporting the Share Lent fundraising campaign of Development and Peace – Caritas Canada. Development and Peace was created by our bishops as the official international development and solidarity organization of the Canadian Catholic Church. It supports vital sustainable development and humanitarian aid projects that serve some of our most vulnerable and marginalized sisters and brothers in dozens of countries across the Global South.

According to its annual report published recently, Development and Peace, with Share Lent donations across Canada, has funded 59 projects with 47 partners touching the lives of more than seven million people in Africa, Asia, East Europe and Latin America.

This year's campaign, "On Track for Justice", supports the justice work of a Brazilian partner, "Justice on the Rails," assisting communities impacted by pollution, environmental degradation and damage to their homes due to the transportation of minerals from a mine in Pará across 892 kilometers to a port in Maranhão. By giving to Share Lent, we are all able to join these courageous efforts of these communities to stand up for themselves and, where necessary, relocate and rebuild.

I invite churches, pastors, pastoral councils, lay groups, and catechists to celebrate, participate and bring this Share Lent campaign to life in their communities. On March 22nd, being Solidarity Sunday, churches across the Archdiocese should take up a collection in support of Development and Peace's Share Lent campaign. Lenten liturgical and campaign resources can be found at <https://devp.org/en/campaign/on-track-for-justice/resources-lent-2026/>. Also, members of the Archdiocesan council and parish reps of Development and Peace will be meeting parish priests and visiting parishes during Lent. I encourage you to welcome and support them, and to pray for a successful Share Lent campaign.

If you have any questions, please contact your Development and Peace parish representative or regional animator, Adah Ogbe aogb@devp.org.

Sincerely in Christ,

†Brian Joseph Dunn

Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth