



March 27, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Letter for Solidarity Sunday

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Next Sunday, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, has for many years been known in Canada as Solidarity Sunday. On that day so close to the Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection, we again take up a national collection for the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP). This year their Share Lent campaign is called People and Planet First and encourages us to live more in communion with the peoples of the Global South.

In his Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis writes: "Solidarity means much more than engaging in sporadic acts of generosity. It means thinking and acting in terms of community. It means that the lives of all are prior to the appropriation of goods by a few. It also means combatting the structural causes of poverty, inequality, the lack of work, land and housing, the denial of social and labour rights. It means confronting the destructive effects of the empire of money. (#116)

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace has worked continuously since 1967 through partner organizations in the Global South to support authentic human development and lasting peace in those regions. Their efforts have helped Canadian Catholics to think and act "in terms of community" and provide regular charitable aid that has impacted countless lives.

In a spirit of solidarity and heart-felt charity, Development and Peace responded immediately to a crisis in a different part of the world: the horrific attack against Ukraine. An allocation of \$75,000 was made to assist with food, shelter, medical care, and transport to safe places for displaced or threatened persons. Although the collection on Solidarity Sunday funds CCODP's projects in the Global South, you may also wish to assist with their emergency appeal for the people of Ukraine. Donations to that fund can be made on their website, by calling 1-888-664-3387 or by mailing them a cheque drawn in favour of Development and Peace and marked *Emergency Ukraine*.

In this Season of Lent when we remember how God's Son became poor to enrich us with God's life and a new vision of universal love, it is a "favourable time" to express our deep commitment to our brothers and sisters who are in need.

Thank you for your sacrifices and prayers that bring so much good to our world.

Sincerely in Christ,

✠ Most. Rev. Stephen A. Hero
Bishop of Prince Albert