



February 28, 2023

### Share Lent and Solidarity Sunday

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

God has given the land as a precious gift to all and has entrusted human beings to steward this earthly garden. After the Exodus God gave a specific land, the “holy land,” to be a place where his people could live in freedom according to the Covenant. Finally, the Son of God called his disciples to be “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world” (Mt 5:13-14) in every land.

Development and Peace (Caritas Canada) has chosen *Stand for the Land* as the theme for its first year of a new five-year plan: *Create Hope*. There are numerous urgent situations in the global South where people are being forced off their traditional lands, who do not have adequate access to clean water or whose lands are being threatened by irresponsible development. This leads to poverty, lack of food security, malnutrition, and challenges to education.

Although regular support of Development and Peace is needed throughout the year, this year’s Share Lent campaign is an important time to consider donating to this worthy organization. The Catholic Bishops in Canada established Development and Peace 55 years ago and, through the support of countless Canadians like you, has helped many people to live in greater freedom, peace, and security.

I encourage you to review the information that has been sent to parishes regarding the work of Development and Peace and their projects in the global South at <https://www.devp.org/en>. Please consider making a donation this Solidarity Sunday on the Fifth Sunday of Lent.

Let us stand for the land and for our brothers and sisters who stand on the land!

And may the Lord bless each of us as we journey together this Lenten season in solidarity with the poor and the One who became poor for our sake (2 Cor 8:9).

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

*+ Stephen A. Hero*

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Bishop of Prince Albert