2017 Share Lent
Bulletin Announcements

You are invited to ask your parish if it would be willing to publish these announcements in its bulletin to promote Development and Peace – Caritas Canada’s 2017 Share Lent campaign. Ideally, the messages will be published for seven consecutive weeks starting on February 26th. You can also download these announcements in Word format at devp.org/sharelent/resources. The bulletin announcements contain references to the free materials that you can order and distribute during the appropriate week to promote the campaign.

February 26

Pre-lenten announcement
50 years of Share Lent!

On Ash Wednesday, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada will launch its 50th annual Share Lent campaign, entitled Women at the Heart of Change.

Since the Organization’s founding in 1967, money donated annually by Catholics during Share Lent provides essential support to the poorest populations of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Today, Development and Peace supports 173 partners and 194 projects in 46 countries around the world!

You can make Share Lent a part of your family’s Lenten journey by using the Solidarity Calendar, which you can obtain in your parish today. This year, the Share Lent collection will take place on
April 2\textsuperscript{nd}, which is Solidarity Sunday. If you would like to lend a hand or find out more, please contact [name of local contact person for D&P] at [phone number – email].

Did you know that Development and Peace’s first Share Lent campaign took place in 1968 and raised $1.35 million, which was used to carry out projects in 32 countries?

**Week 1: March 5**

**Women keep the land in their hearts in Paraguay**

Supporting women is a priority for Development and Peace – Caritas Canada. For this year’s Share Lent campaign, we invite you to listen to the voices of women who are working to build the world of tomorrow — *Women at the heart of change*. You will find testimonials from the four corners of the globe inside our Mini-magazine, distributed in church starting today. Don’t forget to get your copy!

Our first testimonial is from Marta and Silvia, two women from Paraguay who are members of an Indigenous women’s farming association supported by Development and Peace – Caritas Canada. “I wish that there was land for everyone, that women were free [and] that they had the freedom to organize and defend their rights,” Silvia tells us.

Women have always been at the heart of our organization! Did you know that in 1979, Development and Peace led a campaign to support the Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo, in Argentina, whose children and grandchildren disappeared under the military dictatorship?
Women are building an inclusive society in Indonesia

This week, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada is taking you to Indonesia to meet Risya, a 22-year-old Indonesian woman who has been blind since adolescence. Thanks to a workshop in journalism offered by our partner the Association of Independent Journalists (AJI), this courageous young woman started to use her blog to write about the discrimination faced by women with disabilities and to encourage these women to believe in their potential. AJI has offered media workshops to 170 women and now they can make their voices heard!

Remember! In 2004, a tsunami hit the coastlines around the Indian Ocean, resulting in 300,000 victims. In collaboration with its partners, Development and Peace provided emergency relief, completed the construction of 3,500 permanent homes and related infrastructure, and helped establish 26 community organizations.
Women are breaking the chains of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

This week, we meet with Cécile Kazadi, a woman from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who explains why community radio is an essential tool for women denouncing sexual violence. “Thanks to RCK radio, our lives have changed a lot. We are now aware of our rights.”

This year, why not share year-round by joining Development and Peace – Caritas Canada’s monthly donor program? More information can be found online at [devp.org/shareyearround](http://devp.org/shareyearround).

Development and Peace has been working with the Congolese Catholic Church to encourage citizen participation and ensure a fair electoral process since the first democratic elections in the DRC in 2006.
Week 4: March 26

**Women are creating a future filled with hope in Syria**

This week, open your heart to the reality of women living in a country at war. Listen to the voice of Hannan, a Syrian woman who tells us how our partner’s training centres are helping to change the female workforce and the financial autonomy of women in her region. “Through the training course, I personally evolved a lot as a person. Today, I dream of teaching sewing and running a learning centre.” Thanks to your support during Share Lent this year, 280 Syrians will have access to an 11-week training course in sewing and psychosocial services!

Next week is Solidarity Sunday and the Share Lent collection will take place. Please, be generous!

Did you know that in 1982, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada launched its first three-year mobilization and education campaign, entitled “Militarization: Obstacle to Development”?
Solidarity Sunday!

Thank you for your generosity! Each donation is used to help our sisters and brothers all over the world — from Paraguay to Syria, to Indonesia and beyond! We conclude this Share Lent with the words of Pope Francis, offered on the occasion of the Jubilee of Mercy: “Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instils in us the courage to look to the future with hope.” Thank you for helping us create a future filled with hope!

Did you know that in 1992, Rigoberta Menchú, a friend of Development and Peace – Caritas Canada, received the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her work defending the rights of Indigenous peoples? To learn more about this inspiring woman, visit devp.org/insp-women#rigoberta.
April 9 (or once the fundraising results are known)

Thank you for your support to the 2017 Share Lent campaign!

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada thanks everyone who donated to Share Lent. Thanks to your generosity, [$ amount] was collected in our parish. This sum will go towards meeting the needs of our sisters and brothers in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. If you have not had a chance to make a donation, there is still time to place your Share Lent envelope in the Offertory or to make a donation directly at devp.org/give. Thank you for continuing to pray for all those who are working to build a world of peace and justice.