Celebration booklet for Share Lent 2014

*Share Lent* is the annual education and fundraising campaign for Development and Peace, the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. This booklet offers resources that you can use to make your *Share Lent* gatherings prayerful, reflective and celebratory occasions.

As a result of our faith in Jesus Christ, and inspired by his compassion for the most marginalized people, Development and Peace supports more than 100 partners in over 20 countries of the Global South to fulfill its mission of international solidarity with the poor. Money raised through *Share Lent* also helps to educate Canadians on the root causes of poverty and injustice and to mobilize them for actions of change. Your support as a *Share Lent* organizer is essential to the success of the campaign!

Thank you for joining with other Catholics across Canada and around the world, who are making room at the table for all.

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www.devp.org/sharelent
Prayers of the Faithful

We pray for small-scale farmers in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, who on their meagre plots of land, practice forms of agriculture that feed their communities and respect the environment.
Lord, hear us.

We pray for families in Haiti, who have rebuilt their communities after the trauma of the earthquake, and have learned how to increase their production of fruits and vegetables so that they have enough to feed their families, thanks to the support of Development and Peace.
Lord, hear us.

We pray for communities in Ethiopia who have suffered through drought, and are learning new methods to farm their dry land, thanks to the solidarity of Development and Peace.
Lord, hear us.

We pray for the survivors of the typhoon in the Philippines, who have lost family and friends, their homes, and their livelihoods. Bless them as they rebuild their communities with the help of Caritas Philippines-NASSA, a partner of Development and Peace.
Lord, hear us.

We pray for the 1 in 8 people around the world who are going hungry, because of an unjust food system. We are one human family, and we know that you have provided enough food for all.
Lord, hear us.

We pray for leaders in every land, that they may make decisions about food production and distribution that ensure that there is room at the table for all of the members of our human family.
Lord, hear us.

We pray for the Church throughout the world, that her people may sow seeds of justice and reap a harvest of hope.
Lord, hear us.

We pray for ourselves and all people of faith and action, that we may live our lives of plenty in the developed world with humility and gratitude, and share with our brothers and sisters who are poor and hungry.
Lord, hear us.

We pray for the preservation of the Earth that you have created for the common good, that can nourish future generations and all creation.
Lord, hear us.
Walk with us: Way of the Cross

This family-friendly Way of the Cross offers us the opportunity to come together and reflect on how we can make a difference in the lives of people who are hungry, through the lens of the final steps of Jesus.

The first Station:
Jesus is condemned to death

Jesus, you know what it means to stand alone in front of those who reject and fear you.

Walk with us,

through the times when we feel powerless to bring about the changes we know are needed.

Guide and sustain us as we seek to make a difference. Teach us how to live with your love and your truth.

The second Station:
Jesus carries his cross

Jesus, you picked up your cross, though you knew it would lead to your death.

Walk with us,

during the times we feel uncertain and afraid.

Grant us the courage to dedicate ourselves to serve you, as we act to bring an end to hunger and work to transform our world.

The third Station:
Jesus falls for the first time

Jesus, you know how it feels to struggle and to fall, to face temptation and to fight it.

Walk with us.

And show us how to walk with others as they too struggle and stumble.

You reach out to us with caring hands show us how to hold out our hands to bring food to those who are hungry.
Walk with us: Way of the Cross

The fourth Station:
Jesus meets his mother
Jesus, you looked through the crowd and saw your mother’s eyes. Her love and compassion sustained you

Walk with us.

When it’s not easy to listen, help us to hear. When it would be easier to look away, bring us back.

Show us how to be the love and compassion that strengthens and sustains others.

The fifth Station:
Simon of Cyrene carries his cross
Jesus, you know what it means to depend on someone and rely on their help.

Walk with us.

And show us how to share generously with others when they rely on us.

Show us how to listen and be gentle, how to be loving and how to care.

The sixth Station:
Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
Jesus, you know what it means to be in pain and to cry out, for sweat to pour from your brow in your agony.

Walk with us.

And show us how to walk with others, together in dignity.

Show us how to love and to be transformed by your love.

The seventh Station:
Jesus falls the second time
Jesus, you stumbled and fell lost strength, and became fragile. Yet you carried on.

Walk with us,

though we cannot always be strong, and do not always feel secure.

Show us how to be held by your love, how to trust and hope in you, so that we can offer that hope and love to those in need.
The eighth Station:
Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
Jesus, you cared and spoke out, even on the road to your death. You knew and felt the suffering of others.

Walk with us,
so that we may walk with you.
So that we may console and support, listen and understand.
As we hear the stories of our sisters and brothers who live in poverty, show us how to care and to speak out like you, as we take action together for change.

The ninth Station:
Jesus falls for the third time
Jesus, you felt the darkness around you, the crowds surrounded and crushed you, you fell once more.

Walk with us,
when we lose hope, and when we are crushed.
Show us how to reach out and hold the hands of those who feel lost and forgotten.
May your light lead us on and shine before us, as we walk the path with you.

The tenth Station:
Jesus is stripped of his garments
Jesus, you have faced the worst insults And have been treated as inhuman.

Walk with us.
When you were in prison, did we visit you?
When you were naked, did we clothe you?
Help us to continue our battle against discrimination and prejudice.
Bring passion to our fight against torture and injustice.

The eleventh Station:
Jesus is nailed to the cross
Jesus, you hang broken and beaten. In pain, you feel abandoned and cry out.

Walk with us.
Challenge us - when we hold people back and look down on them.
Help us to remember that everyone is equal and born free.
Stay with us when we are tempted by power, status or glory, and remind us that in your wounded brokenness you are God.
Walk with us: Way of the Cross

The twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross

Jesus, you know what it’s like to feel abandoned, lost and afraid.

Walk with us.

And show us how to walk with others, who live in fear, who face death through hunger and thirst, violence and war.

Show us how to pray for those we do not know and will not meet, but who are always loved by you.

The thirteenth Station: his body is taken down from the cross

Jesus, you know what it means to have friends, who risked their own lives to take your body from the cross.

Walk with us.

And show us how to go further than we think we can, to overcome our fears.

Show us how to seek you and see your face in others, to walk the path of compassion and turn our hearts towards you.
The fourteenth Station:
Jesus' body is laid in the tomb and covered in incense

Jesus, in the darkness of the tomb
you were surrounded by love,
by grief and by fear
as the women prepared your body for burial.

Walk with us.

May we feel the comfort
of your love for us.

And may we turn outwards
to share that love with others,
with the same generosity and gentle loving kindness
that you showed to all.

The fifteenth Station:
Jesus is raised from the dead

Jesus, you share your joy,
your light and your peace
with us all.

Walk with us.

And show us how to be witnesses
of your love,
to live in joy
and share the good news.

Show us how to act in love,
for the good of all,
so that our brothers and sisters
around the world may know your glory
and we may be transformed by your light.

Courtesy of CAFOD
**Eucharistic reflection: The Bread of Life**

**Duration of activity:** 15 minutes.

**What you will need:**

» Five or six different types of bread from around the world: baguette, sliced bread, rye bread, a bagel, naan bread, tortillas, chapati, etc.

» A basket for the breads.

» Volunteers to bring each type of bread to the altar or table at the front. Invite youth, new members of the congregation, a grandparent and grandchild, a parent and child, and/or others to be part of the procession.

**Instructions:** A narrator should read the text slowly, with a pause between each section, while each volunteer brings in a different type of bread and places it in the basket. Alternatively, one person can begin the reflection, and then each volunteer brings one of the breads to the front, and reads a section.

**Readings:**

**Section 1:**

At the Last Supper, Jesus broke unleavened bread and shared it with his apostles. Bread takes many forms, but it is a staple food of many people around the world. Whether it is unleavened flatbread, as Jesus would have eaten in Jerusalem in his time, or familiar sliced white bread, bread is a meaningful part of our lives and our cultures.

**Section 2:**

When we receive the bread during the Eucharist, we make a commitment to be in communion with the whole body of Christ. There is room for everyone at this divine banquet with God.

Here in Canada, most of us have access to enough food to nourish our bodies. However, what does it mean to us that 1 in 8 people around the world do not have adequate food to eat? Their daily bread is a daily struggle, and they never know what the next day will bring.

**Section 3:**

During Lent, we make sacrifices as a way to repent and open ourselves up to a change of heart. Often this sacrifice is expressed through fasting. Fasting is an opportunity to reflect on the daily realities of the one billion people who are suffering from hunger. This reminds us to be truly grateful for the gift of God himself in the Eucharist. If we have given of ourselves for others in a big or a small way, and made room for those who have less, we know what offering a generous gift means.
Section 4:

At Mass, we receive a small piece of consecrated bread or a sip of consecrated wine, which is the gift of life from Jesus. Inspired by Jesus’ gift to us, we can make room at the table for the poor and the hungry. As he gave of his body, we too can share bread with our brothers and sisters in the Global South.

Very Reverend Pedro Arrupe, S.J. told us, “If there is hunger anywhere in the world, then our celebration of the Eucharist is somehow incomplete everywhere in the world . . . In the Eucharist we receive Christ hungering in the world. He comes to us, not alone, but with the poor, the oppressed, the starving of the Earth. Through him they are looking to us for help, for justice, for love expressed in action. Therefore we cannot properly receive the Bread of Life unless at the same time we give the Bread of Life to those in need, wherever and whoever they may be.”

Section 5:

God created an abundant world, with enough for everyone. But the way that food is grown, sold and shared – whether through local or global food systems – isn’t working for one billion people. DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE is working to respond to this challenge, by addressing the root causes of poverty and injustice.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis sends us this call: “I invite all of the institutions of the world, the Church, each of us, as one single human family, to give a voice to all of those who suffer silently from hunger, so that this voice becomes a roar which can shake the world.”

Section 6:

By supporting DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE, we join a movement that is working to create a world where there is justice for all and where people come first. By creating seed banks for farmers to make crops last longer, supporting farming and fishing cooperatives, or speaking out against land grabs or forest destruction, we can make the world more just, to ensure that everyone can have their daily bread.

Let us pray:

God our Father,
We give you thanks
for the abundance of your creation,
and the generosity of your gifts.
We are sorry that amongst us
are so many people
who are excluded from the feast,
prepared by you for us all.
May your Spirit inspire us and lead us
as we seek change,
so that hunger and poverty
are no longer
a scar and a scandal in our world.
May your Spirit guide us
as we seek change,
so everybody has enough food to flourish
and a place at the table you spread for all.

(Prayer: Catherine Gorman/CAFOD)
**Message for mass**

**Duration of activity:** 3 minutes.

Good morning. My name is ________, and I am a member of ________ parish. I’m also a member of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. Over 45 years ago, the Catholic Bishops of Canada established Development and Peace with the mandate to be in solidarity with the poor in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

Development and Peace is the Canadian member of Caritas Internationalis, a confederation of Catholic development organizations around the world. Caritas has launched a global campaign, called “One Human Family, Food for All”. This campaign is in response to the fact that 1 in every 8 of God’s children still suffer from hunger – a total of one billion people on our planet. To die of hunger in our world of plenty is a scandal and denies the most basic human right: the right to food.

Catholics around the world have joined this campaign, which was launched by the Holy Father Pope Francis in December. Development and Peace has answered this call. Our goal is to create change so that the abundance of God’s creation is shared equally amongst all around the world. We know that we can end the injustice of hunger and make a place at the table for the poor.

Many of Development and Peace’s partners are working towards ensuring food sovereignty - the right of people to healthy food and the right to develop their own agricultural systems. Many of our partners are supporting small-scale farmers and have come together to call for reforms to the way food is grown, produced, and distributed. These partners have created seed banks to improve crops; they are teaching agricultural methods to grow food on dry fields; they are creating farming and fishing cooperatives; and they are speaking out against land grabs and forest destruction. By supporting their work, we are making room at the table for all and ensuring that everyone receives their daily bread.

Today is Solidarity Sunday, when Canadian Catholics open their arms wide across the globe and show our solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Global South who are struggling for justice and dignity. This is our opportunity to express our faith and demonstrate that we are part of one human family.

Today, I am asking you to contribute towards making a significant difference in the lives of the people of the Global South. I’m asking you to give generously in order to make a place at the table for the poor. I am asking you to give, for the good of the whole human family of which we are all members, and within which we are all responsible for each other.

Thank you so much for your generosity and your solidarity.
**Duration of activity:** 1 minute.

Good morning. My name is ________, and I am a member of ________ parish. I’m also a member of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace.

Catholics around the world have joined a global campaign called “One Human Family, Food for All,” which was launched by the Holy Father Pope Francis in December. Development and Peace has answered this call. Our goal is to create change so that the abundance of God’s creation is shared equally amongst all around the world. Together, we can end the injustice of hunger and make a place at the table for the poor.

One out of every 8 of God’s children suffers from hunger – a total of one billion people on our planet. To die of hunger in our world of plenty is a scandal and denies the most basic human right: the right to food. Supporting this global campaign is our opportunity to express our faith and demonstrate that we are part of one human family.

Today, I’m asking you to give generously in order to make a place at the table for the poor and ensure that everyone receives their daily bread. I am asking you to give, for the good of the whole human family of which we are all members, and within which we are all responsible for each other.

Thank you so much for your generosity and your solidarity.
Campaign prayer

O God, you entrusted to us the fruits of all creation so that we might care for the earth and be nourished with its bounty.

You sent us your Son to share our very flesh and blood and to teach us your Law of Love.

Through His death and resurrection, we have been formed into one human family.

Jesus showed great concern for those who had no food – even transforming five loaves and two fish into a banquet that served five thousand and many more.

We come before you, O God, conscious of our faults and failures, but full of hope, to share food with all members in this global family.

Through your wisdom, inspire leaders of government and of business, as well as all the world’s citizens, to find just, and charitable solutions to end hunger by assuring that all people enjoy the right to food.

Thus we pray, O God, that when we present ourselves for Divine Judgment, we can proclaim ourselves as

“One Human Family” with “Food for All.”

AMEN.