We approach the Lenten season as a time to come closer to God through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. As people of faith, we invite others in our parish, our schools, and our community to join us in opening our hearts to solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Global South and take action together to build a better world.

For almost 50 years, Canadian Catholics have generously and faithfully responded to the cry of the poor by giving generously to Development and Peace. We have walked side by side with the women, men and children who experience the injustice of poverty, no matter where they may be.

This Lent we are being asked to sow seeds of love as we continue to lead the “One Human Family, Food for All” campaign across Canada, which was launched by Pope Francis in December 2013. With other members of Caritas Internationalis around the world, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace works to build a world where no one goes hungry.

These prayers, hymns, symbols, talks and announcements are suggestions which were prepared to help you bring this message of faith and love to your parish and/or your school. For parish celebrations, it will be important to work closely with the pastor and the liturgical team to determine which suggestions will be possible to use at mass; for school celebrations, with the coordinator for worship and the chaplain or pastoral worker to see which suggestions would work best at the school. We hope that these resources will inspire you and that you will share the joy of the gospel and the message of this important campaign with those around you.

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SYMBOLS OF SOLIDARITY

The Symbols of Solidarity are designed to be a procession before or during Mass or at other gatherings. If you would like to propose that they be part of the procession of the offerings at Mass, it will be important to consult with the pastor or liturgy planning committee to see if it is possible.

This year, each of the suggested symbols comes to us from different members of a family – two children, a parent, and a grandparent, and we suggest that participants be chosen for this activity in that way.

The procession of each symbol starts as a narrator or reader begins each section, and it ends at the front of the church or room. You may wish to have just one narrator, or different voices (representing the different voices of the family) for each.

Allow brief pauses between symbols to create a dramatic effect. The entire activity takes between 10-15 minutes. The presenters of the symbols should remain at the front of the church or room where they will join hands after the presentation of the last symbol.

You will need:

- A place to put the symbols after they are processed in – perhaps close to the sanctuary, on a table decorated for this purpose, or a special area in the room where the procession will take place.
- A bowl of earth (from the grandparent) to represent the past.
- Seeds (from the child) to represent the future.
- A hoe or other farming tool (from the parent) to represent the present.
- Paper dolls holding hands (from another a child) to represent the communal spirit of different families working together to end hunger through their collective action. (this simple children’s craft can be made ahead of time).
INTRODUCTION

This very day, nearly 1 billion people will go without the basic food and nourishment that they need. This daily scandal occurs despite the fact that the gifts of the earth, given to us by God, are enough to feed us all. With your support, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE is working to overcome hunger by helping small family farmers in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East to grow the food they need to feed their families and their communities. Today we present to you a ‘family’ of symbols to show that all of us have “Sow Much Love… to Give.”

1st symbol – a bowl of earth
Presented by a grandparent

I am a grandparent of this generation. This bowl of earth represents the labour of my years, which returns to the soil and enriches it for future harvests. Care for the soil is vital to the health of the farm. In Ethiopia, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE supports projects that help prevent soil erosion by using a system of terraced embankments to help capture and maintain moisture in the soil during times of drought.

2nd symbol – seeds
Presented by a child and planted in the bowl of earth

I am a child of this generation. These seeds represent the harvests of the future that will feed our families. Without seeds, the farmer has nothing. Seeds are saved and planted from one harvest to the next. In Brazil, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE supported the creation of the country’s largest organic seed co-operative, with over 156 families.

3rd symbol – farming tool
Presented by a parent who symbolically touches the planted earth with it

I am a parent of this generation. This tool represents our loving and laborious care for our planted seeds. The fruit of the earth is the work of our human hands. DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE supports farmers in Nigeria to receive training on everything from bookkeeping to field and crop management. With this training, they are able to improve the lives of their families. One farmer named Samuel says, “I used to own 300 chickens, now I have 700!”

4th Symbol – paper dolls holding hands
Presented by another child who places the dolls around the bowl and then joins hands with all the presenters to form a circle

I am the communal spirit of this generation. When typhoon Yolanda hit Tacloban in the Philippines, many women lost their husbands. They came together to form the Yolanda Survivors Women’s Association and, with the support of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE, one of the first things they did was plant a communal garden. Little Jobert Pindos comes to the garden regularly with his mother. He is blind, but is nourished by the labour of his mother and the other survivors who have come to see how working together can build a brighter future for them all.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

We put these symbols of solidarity before you O God. We offer them in the knowledge that only when we co-operate with your loving plan for us, will we ever succeed in bringing an end to the scandal of global hunger. Help us always to Sow Much Love and to give of our time, talent, and treasure. May we become one human family where there is food for all. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.
SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

One or two of these prayers could be used each week with the parish’s Prayer of the Faithful.

For the Church in the World
Let us pray for the church throughout the world, may her mission to the poor shine ever more brightly as a beacon of hope for the hungry and oppressed.

We pray to the Lord.

For our world leaders
Let us pray for all leaders and public authorities with the power to affect the lives of small family farmers within their countries. May their decisions protect the livelihoods of those who labour to bring food from the earth, ensuring access to vital resources such as seeds, land, and water.

We pray to the Lord.

For those who are hungry
Let us pray for each and every person for whom hunger is a daily reality – nearly one billion members of our human family. May they both inspire and participate in solutions to end the scandal of their suffering.

We pray to the Lord.

For the protection of all creation
Let us pray for all creation, threatened by human greed and apathy. May God inspire people to protect and preserve the earth so that it may continue to nourish our human family from generation to generation.

We pray to the Lord.

For the peoples of Asia
Let us pray for all the peoples of Asia who find themselves hungry and in need. We pray especially for the Philippines and for Urban Poor Associates – a Filipino partner of Development and Peace that is helping establish community gardens as people continue to rebuild their lives from the 2013 typhoon.

We pray to the Lord.

For the peoples of Latin America
Let us pray for the peoples of Latin America. We pray especially for the Pastoral Land Commission of the Church in Brazil. Through the solidarity of Development and Peace, may the Commission continue to be an advocate for the rural poor and landless in their search for justice.

We pray to the Lord.

For all partners of Development and Peace
Let us pray for all the courageous groups of women and men who partner with Development and Peace in more than 30 countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East, and those who rely on our support to work for the development of their communities.

We pray to the Lord.

For our local community
Let us pray for all members of our community whose faith motivates them to work for justice. We pray especially for those who are volunteer members with Development and Peace here in Canada and who work to promote its mission. May they be blessed in their work and continue to inspire generosity of both talent and treasure from their fellow Canadian Catholics.

We pray to the Lord.

For the peoples of Africa
Let us pray for all the peoples of Africa and her many countries. We pray especially for the needs of Nigeria and the Justice, Development and Peace Commission established by her bishops, who with the support of Development and Peace, are working to meet the agricultural needs of poor farmers.

We pray to the Lord.
Suggested Hymns on the 2015 Share Lent theme

As Saints of Old Their First Fruits Brought, Catholic Book of Workshop III, #502
God Whose Farm is All Creation, Catholic Book of Workshop III, #537
For the Fruit of All Creation, Catholic Book of Workshop III, #532
Earthen Vessels, Catholic Book of Workshop III, #445
For the Healing of the Nations, Catholic Book of Workshop III, #503
Come with me into the Fields, Glory and Praise, #11

Song of the Body of Christ, Text: David Haas, Music: traditional Hawaiian melody, c. 1989, GIA Publications
One Bread, One Body, by John Foley, c. 1978, North American Liturgy Resources
Good morning my name is ___________, and I am grateful for this opportunity to invite you to support our Parish’s Share Lent campaign for Development and Peace.

I believe, as our campaign states, that we have “sow much love to give.”

Development and Peace is the response of the Catholic Church in Canada to the cry of the poor throughout the world. Our partnerships with the poor and marginalized throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East have helped put an end to the suffering and injustice faced by so many of our sisters and brothers. These partnerships are only possible through your generosity and support.

Without you, people like Mr. Ramon Apit from the Philippines, would not be living with hope for the future. Mr. Apit lives in Tacloban – one of the worst hit areas of the typhoon. His community had not been included on the government list to receive humanitarian aid, even though they had lost everything and been without food for a week. Like so many others, they slipped through the cracks. Thanks to our local partnership with the Urban Poor Associates, that has changed. Mr. Apit’s family and their community now have a plan to rebuild and they are successfully advocating for themselves to get the resources they need to see the plan through. Their future now includes not only homes, but also gardens to grow the food they need to feed themselves.

Development and Peace is sowing much love, not only in the Philippines, but in over 30 other countries!

You see, we always stay behind long after the headlines of disaster have disappeared from the news. It is our long-term view and our willingness to embrace the complexities of fighting poverty that makes us effective.

For almost 50 years, Canadian Catholics have opened their hearts to our sisters and brothers who live in poverty, and shown their generosity and their confidence in Development and Peace. I am asking you today to once again show that confidence and generosity. Please support the Share Lent campaign as we Sow Much Love today and into the future. Thank you.
"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." With these words, Jesus alludes to his coming sacrifice as one that will also give new life.

My name is _______________. I am grateful for this opportunity to invite you to support our parish Share Lent campaign for Development and Peace. You can do this by offering your own sacrificial gift today. The great mystery of Christian life is that our sacrifices are not in vain, but rather lead to new life.

Development and Peace is honoured to support courageous women and men in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East who make sacrifices each and every day. We offer our support so that their families, loved ones and communities can live another day. Sometimes the sacrifice they make is their own life. Development and Peace partner Caritas works to restore peace in the Central African Republic, a country where civil strife has claimed many lives. Sadly, that includes the life of Father Christ Forman Wilibona, who was shot six times and killed on Good Friday last year. The Central African Republic is just one of more than 30 countries throughout the world where your gift to Development and Peace brings new life, and honours the ultimate sacrifice made by Father Wilibona and countless others.

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain. While there has been progress in reducing hunger in the world, more than 800 million people still go without the daily food they need. The sacrifices we make here, today, on behalf of the poor will bear fruit through the work of Development and Peace partners.

Take, for example, the widows of Tacloban in the Philippines. In losing their husbands to the great typhoon, they found each other. With the help of our local partner, Urban Poor Associates, they formed the Yolanda Survivors’ Women’s Association. The first thing they did together was plant a communal garden to grow food for their children. By supporting each other, and thanks to your generous solidarity, they are no longer hungry.

Fighting hunger is not only a matter of helping after disasters but also getting to the root causes of the problem. Poor farmers should be able to support themselves and their communities through their own efforts on their own land. But many are lured away to work on large plantations for meagre wages. Too many find themselves working in slave-like conditions on plantations for literally nothing. Brazil’s Pastoral Land Commission, a long-term Development and Peace partner, helps people escape from forced labour on plantations and find land on which to earn their own livelihoods. Maria Dalva is one of those whose eyes were opened by the commission’s “Slavery No Way” campaign. She now helps others avoid the trap of slavery. “I am in love with the land,” she says, “I love to plant, nurture and harvest!” Maria helps form farming cooperatives so that people can access the land and resources they need to feed their families and communities. This is another good example of how your sacrifice bears fruit for those who need it most.
I invite you to read these and other stories in our Share Lent materials you will find here at the Church. (Hold up a copy of the Mini-magazine or other materials).

What is unique about Development and Peace, what makes us different from our secular counterparts, is the Gospel spirit that animates us. “If development were concerned with merely technical aspects of human life … then the Church would not be entitled to speak on it,” Benedict XVI says in Caritas in Veritate.

In today’s readings, the prophet Jeremiah says “I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts.” Our approach to development is not found in textbooks but is written on our very hearts. It recognizes that people are not objects to be developed, but subjects who are called to take control of their own lives and their own development. The gifts of Canadian Catholics like yourselves – your sacrifices – allow that to happen. They allow us all to become not patrons of the poor, but their partners in the search for human dignity. In this way we can truly become, as Pope Francis calls us to be, a church that is both poor and for the poor.

Today, on Solidarity Sunday, Catholics across Canada are showing their solidarity with those in our human family who need it most. We do this by giving generously – sacrificially – to Development and Peace. Saint John Paul II called solidarity the “firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good … the good of all.” Our Lenten sacrifices, inspired by the sacrifice of our Lord, help bring about the common good in the world today.

I believe that we here today have “Sow Much Love… to Give.” (Hold up a copy of the campaign poster or a Mini-magazine here). On behalf of all those who benefit year after year from your generosity, and with whom we are all on a journey to a better world, thank you from the bottom of my heart.
Pre-Lenten announcement for Share Lent February 15th:

**DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE brings the Joy of the Gospel for Share Lent 2015**

On Ash Wednesday, **DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE** will launch its annual Share Lent campaign with the theme “Sow much love … to give.” This annual campaign raises funds to support its mission in more than 30 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. This year, each of **DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE**’s weekly bulletin announcements features quotations from Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel. In each one, **DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE** shares the joy of its mission. We hope the Holy Father’s inspiring words will lead you to read the full text, and move you to give generously to the Share Lent campaign. Learn more at devp.org/sharelent.

New this year: Lent Calendar app!

**DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE** has created a new app for the Share Lent campaign for smartphones and tablets.

Guiding you day by day through the Lenten season, the app invites you to take three simple steps every day: learn, pray, and act. Learn about **DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE** partners who are working to build a world of justice.

Our Lent Calendar app is available for download for free from the App Store or Google Play!

Week 1 - Feb 22nd:

**DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE – Sowing seeds of love through 15,200 projects and partnerships**

*We have to state, without mincing words, that there is an inseparable bond between our faith and the poor. May we never abandon them.*


For nearly 50 years, **DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE** has been committed to nurturing the bond between the faith of Canadian Catholics and the poorest of our brothers and sisters in the human family. Since our founding in 1967, Canadian Catholics have supported 15,200 local initiatives around the world through your generous donations to the annual Share Lent Campaign. These initiatives, in areas such as agriculture, education, community action, peacebuilding and citizen participation, continue to help the poor today. The Share Lent collection is on the Fifth Sunday of Lent – Solidarity Sunday – March 22nd. Learn more at devp.org.
Week 2 - March 1st:

**Development and Peace – Sowing seeds of justice for women and girls in Nigeria**

Doubly poor are those women who endure situations of exclusion, mistreatment, and violence, since they are frequently less able to defend their rights. Even so, we constantly witness among them impressive examples of daily heroism in defending and protecting their vulnerable families. – Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, 212.

Supporting women and girls is a priority for Development and Peace. When 276 girls were kidnapped by Boko Haram from Chibok in Nigeria, our local Nigerian partner began working for their freedom, and has managed to smuggle three girls to safety. “The three girls, who were 17, 18, and 19 years old, still seemed to be under the effect of the swirl of emotions generated by the trials they experienced since their abduction,” states Raphael Yimga Tatchi, Development and Peace program officer for Nigeria. “Their voices and lost eyes betray deep pain… glimmers of humanity shine through only when they courageously recount the details of their escape.” The Share Lent collection for Development and Peace is on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 22nd.

Week 3 - March 8th:

**Development and Peace – Responding to the cry of the rural poor with the bishops of Brazil**

In all places and circumstances, Christians, with the help of their pastors, are called to hear the cry of the poor. This has been eloquently stated by the bishops of Brazil: “We wish to take up daily the joys and hopes, the difficulties and sorrows of the Brazilian people, especially of those living in the barrios and the countryside – landless, homeless, lacking food and health care – to the detriment of their rights. Seeing their poverty, hearing their cries and knowing their sufferings, we are scandalized because we know that there is enough food for everyone and that hunger is the result of a poor distribution of goods and income.”


Development and Peace has been working with the Brazilian bishops for many years to respond to the cry of the poor. Your generosity helps fund our partnership with their Pastoral Land Commission, which works to support the rural poor through agricultural development and land reform. You can learn more about our work by picking up Share Lent materials at the back of the Church or by visiting devp.org. The Share Lent collection for Development and Peace is on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 22nd.
Week 4 - March 15th:
The Share Lent collection for Development and Peace is next Sunday – Solidarity Sunday!

Money must serve, not rule! The Pope loves everyone, rich and poor alike, but he is obliged in the name of Christ to remind all that the rich must help, respect, and promote the poor. I exhort you to generous solidarity and to the return of economics and finance to an ethical approach which favours human beings. – Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, 58

Next Sunday, March 22nd, is the Fifth Sunday of Lent, Solidarity Sunday when the annual Share Lent collection for Development and Peace will be held. Your generous solidarity is vital to the mission of Development and Peace and our ability to help, respect, and promote the poor. Please be sure to bring your Share Lent envelope for your gift. To find out how you can make a difference, be sure to read our Share Lent materials, which you’ll find at the back of the church. Thank you for your support! devp.org

Week 5 - March 22nd – Solidarity Sunday:
Today is Solidarity Sunday! Support the Share Lent collection for Development and Peace.

Pope Francis ends his Joy of the Gospel with this prayer to Mary:

Star of the new evangelization, help us to bear radiant witness to communion, service, ardent and generous faith, justice and love of the poor, that the joy of the Gospel may reach to the ends of the Earth, illuminating even the fringes of our world.

Today, on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, Solidarity Sunday, we join the Holy Father in praying that we may all be radiant witnesses and that through our support of Development and Peace, the joy of the Gospel may indeed illuminate even the darkest corners of our world! Your gift can be placed in the Share Lent envelopes. Thank you for your generosity in helping to meet the needs of the world.

Post Campaign Announcement - March 29th (or when the final results of the collection are available):

Development and Peace wishes to thank all those who made a gift to the Share Lent campaign on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, Solidarity Sunday. Thank you! Through your generosity, (insert $ amount) was collected in our parish. This will serve the needs of our sisters and brothers in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.
All-loving and Creator God,
our sisters and brothers in every country of the world
ask that You grant all of us
bread and nourishment for our daily lives.

You invite us to join with You
in responding to this request
by calling upon our sense of
community, solidarity and sharing.

Help us to knead the dough together
so that all of our sisters and brothers
may have bread that feeds the body
and compassion that nurtures the soul.

One human family,
food for all is possible.
Because we sow much love, every person
will have their place at the family table.

Amen.

Written by the members of Development and Peace
at the Saint-Félix de Cap-Rouge Parish, Diocese of Quebec