You are invited to ask your parish to publish these announcements in your parish bulletin to promote this year’s Share Lent Campaign for Development and Peace. There is one announcement for each of the seven Sundays beginning February 15th, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday (Ash Wednesday is on February 18th). You can also download these announcements in Word format from the Resources page of our website at devp.org/sharelent.

Pre-Lenten announcement for Share Lent February 15th:


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 or 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.” – Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, 191.

**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](http://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.