 SYMBOLS OF SOLIDARITY

The Symbols of Solidarity is an optional activity designed to visually illustrate the theme of the 2019 Share Lent campaign. The symbols can be used in a procession before or during Mass or during an activity organized in your community. If you plan on presenting the Symbols of Solidarity during Mass, please coordinate with the parish pastoral team as to how the presentation will unfold. Schools are also invited to present these symbols in the most appropriate area in their school.

Organization and execution
The Symbols of Solidarity presentation generally takes less than 10 minutes but can be shortened or lengthened as needed. Here are some suggestions that will help you to present the symbols.

Location
Determine in advance where the symbols will be placed after the procession. You could, for example, place them near the altar on a decorated table or in another location set aside for this purpose.

Presenter
Designate in advance a person who will present the symbols. You could call on a different person to present each symbol.

Presentation
The Symbols of Solidarity can be done at different moments (before, after or as part of Mass), depending on what is most appropriate for your parish. Begin the presentation with a procession that is led by the people holding the symbols.

Once the procession is complete and people are seated, the person presenting the symbols may begin.

When a symbol is presented, the person holding it presents it to the congregation. Once the symbol is presented, he or she places it down in the designated location and then steps aside to make way for the presentation of the next symbol. When the symbols have all been presented, the people return to their places.

Text for the presentation of the Symbols of Solidarity
Lent is a sacred period, a time for preparation, transformation, and conversion, offering us the opportunity to deepen and enrich our faith. It is also a privileged moment of encounter with oneself, our loved ones, newcomers of our community, and with God.

In this age when division seems to be at the forefront, when fear clouds minds, and the culture of indifference stifles hearts, Pope Francis invites us to promote a culture of encounter and to share the journey with the millions of people around the world who are forced to flee their homes. It is an invitation to all of us to walk together side by side on the path of solidarity.

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada partners in the Global South stand side by side with people forced to flee their homes, whether by working to make their voices heard, providing emergency assistance to displaced communities and host communities, or fighting against the root causes of forced migration.

The Symbols of Solidarity that we present to you today reflect the path traveled by displaced persons and the work done by Development and Peace partners.

Symbols
• A pair of old shoes to symbolize the road traveled by forced migrants.
• A backpack to symbolize the precarious situation of forced migrants.
• A lifejacket to symbolize the dangers and difficulties faced by forced migrants during their journey.
• A dish to be shared (hummus with crackers or a fruit platter for example) to symbolize the culture of encounter and the connections between forced migrants and members of their host community.
Conclusion of the presentation of the Symbols of Solidarity by the presenter

The Development and Peace Share Lent campaign invites us to be fellow travelers with our sisters and brothers who are forced to flee their homes. Let us be the voice that kindles hope and compassion, and rallies hearts on the path of solidarity. We now invite you to shake hands with your neighbour to express welcome and solidarity with each other and with all those around the world who have been forced to flee their homes. May the Lord illuminate their path and guide them to safety.