This Lent we are being asked to sow seeds of solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Global South. This doesn’t mean just sharing our material goods with the poorest of the poor, it also means sowing seeds of faith and love within ourselves. Lent is a time to take a look inside ourselves and reflect on our relationships with God and each other. This reflection can be deepened by spending time in prayer and fasting, both of which assist us in sowing seeds of love and change.

Our faith calls on us to open our eyes to the fact that everyone around us is our sister and our brother, and that we are one body. Since we are one body, we have a responsibility to care for each other. The life of Jesus inspires us to make a place at the table for all of our sisters and brothers, especially the poor and the marginalized, just as he did throughout his life.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE is continuing to lead the “One Human Family, Food for All” campaign across Canada as part of the Caritas Internationalis global campaign launched by the Holy Father. This campaign is being led in response to the fact that one out of every nine of God’s children still suffers from hunger – close to one billion people on our planet.

With other members of Caritas Internationalis around the world, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace continues to be at the side of hungry people around the world. From the incredibly rapid and generous response by Canadians across the country to the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, to the long-term support for development projects that assist communities around the world in seeking justice, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE offers a way to act on our faith by sharing the abundance of God’s Creation with all of the members of our human family.

Thanks to your generosity, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE supports more than 100 partners in over 30 countries of the Global South who are working to improve their communities. Money raised through ShareLife also helps to educate Canadians on the root causes of poverty and injustice and to mobilize them for actions of change.

In this ShareLife mini-magazine, you will meet people whose lives have been transformed thanks to the projects that you support, and you will see the impact of your solidarity on their daily struggle for food security.

I join with DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE in inviting you to sow seeds of love and transformation in the lives of our sisters and brothers in the Global South by supporting DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE through ShareLife.

Sincerely,
† Thomas Cardinal Collins
Archbishop of Toronto
In Burundi, 90 percent of citizens make their living from agriculture. On average, each family farm has just one acre of land, often not enough to feed a family. There is rarely a surplus to sell at market. Burundi’s farmers deal not only with the usual uncertainty caused by pests, fluctuating prices and poor weather, but they are still recovering from a civil war that ravaged the country between 1993 and 2005. Farmland, livestock and farming knowledge were lost. Forests were cut down for charcoal and to build new shelters. This, in turn, caused erosion on Burundi’s beautiful hills.

Women farmers face even greater challenges. In Burundi, they are unable to inherit land, so women farmers must often rent land and take on debt to grow food.

All over the world, family farmers achieve remarkably high levels of production despite their daily challenges, which now include the often dramatic effects of climate change and decreasing access to land, water and seeds. Development and Peace partners help small family farmers improve their agricultural practices and work together to challenge policies that make small family farming even more difficult.

Thanks to your donation to ShareLife, farming families in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East have access to agricultural training and innovations that will ensure bountiful harvests. These farming families create communities that allow them to share resources, develop cooperatives, access markets, and advocate for their rights.

Their courage, hard work and commitment inspire us to travel this journey with them.

When families have enough to eat, they can build solid roofs over their heads, their children can go to school, they can receive medical care when they are sick, their elders are cared for and the whole family can live in dignity.

As stewards of Creation, small family farmers safeguard the Earth, while contributing to the struggle against world hunger.

Give generously to ShareLife so that small family farmers around the world can grow food to feed themselves and the world.

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The money you give to ShareLife goes straight to work, supporting our education programs and helping our partners around the world achieve greater justice by working on projects that focus on the following areas:

- Peace and reconciliation
- Democracy and citizen participation
- Natural resources
- Ecological justice

The money you give to ShareLife goes straight to work, supporting our education programs and helping our partners around the world achieve greater justice by working on projects that focus on the following areas:

- Equality between women and men
- Food
- Humanitarian aid

Development and Peace has been working to transform lives in the Global South since 1967. As the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada, and the Canadian member of Caritas Internationalis, Development and Peace works in partnership with local organizations in the Global South to create greater justice in the world and to act in solidarity with the most vulnerable. Here in Canada, we raise awareness on the root causes of poverty and injustice in the developing world and mobilize Canadians to act for social change.

Inspired by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the preferential option for the poor, we partner with local organizations that know the needs of their communities and can address these effectively. Our programs aim to bring about sustainable and systemic change so that all can live in dignity. We also respond to humanitarian crises, providing emergency relief and supporting reconstruction efforts so that communities can rebuild and become more resilient to future disasters.

In the Global South, of working women make their living mainly from agriculture.

Women produce 80% of the food in Africa, but own only 1% of the land.

If women farmers had the same access to resources as men, they could increase their agricultural production by 20 to 30%, and the number of hungry people in the world could decrease by 150 million. (FAO)

50% of people suffering from hunger are small family farmers.
When we give generously to ShareLife, we share the fruits of our labour and sow seeds of justice.

Sow Much Love!
Give to your ShareLife parish collection.

Thank you for your generous gift.