



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

2019 Lenten Campaign

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Pope Francis has invited each one of us to journey in solidarity with the 68.5 million displaced children, women, and men throughout the world. “Hope is the force that drives us to ‘share the journey,’ because the journey is made jointly: by those who come to our land, and by us, who go towards their heart, to understand them, to understand their culture, their language.” (General Audience, September 27, 2017)

It is in this spirit that I invite you to answer his call and embark together on a journey of faith, love, and hope. Through this journey, Pope Francis asks that we see the inherent human dignity of each person in the faces of those who are forced to leave their homes through no fault of their own. We should recall the message given to us in the Letter to the Hebrews (13:1-3): “Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves are being tortured.”

On May 3, 2018, during a panel at the United Nations, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, the president of Caritas Internationalis, also reminded us that in supporting migrants, we challenge our own faith. We have the opportunity to prove, through the support we offer to those who come to us, that we recognize Jesus in each one. The meeting with the other is a great journey that starts inside of us and enables us to connect with our profound humanity, to undo stereotypes, and to combat prejudice, fear of the other, racism and xenophobia.

Pope Francis described our Christian duty simply: “Before the challenges of contemporary movements of migration, the only reasonable response is one of solidarity and mercy.” (Homily, July 6, 2018)

It is therefore in the name of Jesus Christ that I ask you to accept this invitation from the Church and to share the journey with Development and Peace – Caritas Canada, the official international solidarity organization of the Church in Canada. I encourage you to take part in the *Share the Journey* campaign by spreading the word in your community, actively participating in the actions proposed to you, supporting Development and Peace’s partners through your gifts to *Together We Serve*, and engaging in community efforts to welcome migrants and refugees.

May the Lord bless your generosity and faithfulness.

Sincerely in Christ,

✠Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton