



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

It is in solidarity with the 68.5 million displaced children, women, and men throughout the world that we invite you to embark on a journey of faith, love, and hope. “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,” stated Pope Francis during a general audience on September 27, 2017. He added that, “It is a joint journey by two parties; but without hope, that journey cannot be made. Hope is the drive to share the journey of life [...]”

Through this journey, rooted in the inherent dignity of each human person, Pope Francis invites us to meet the other and to see the humanity of each migrant. In following the teachings of the Beatitudes, 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 3rd, during a panel at the United Nations, Cardinal Tagle, the president of Caritas Internationalis, also reminded us that we are challenging our own faith, and this gives us the opportunity to prove, through the support we offer to those who come to us, that we recognize Jesus in each of them. 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.

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. Do not hesitate to take part in the *Share the Journey* campaign by spreading the word in your community, actively participating in the actions proposed to you, raising funds for Development and Peace and supporting efforts made by your community to welcome migrants and refugees.

May the Lord bless your generosity and faithfulness.

Fraternally in Our Lord,

† **Lionel Gendron, P.S.S.**

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Before the challenges of contemporary movements of migration,
the only reasonable response is one of solidarity and mercy.

– Pope Francis, Homily, July 6, 2018.