In his video message of May 3rd, 2016, Pope Francis invited us to pray with him so that “in all countries of the world women may be honoured, respected and valued for their essential contribution to society.” In view of this, and as part of our Lenten campaign, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada recommends that you add one or two of the Pope’s prayer intentions to the suggestions for the prayers of the faithful for each Sunday of Lent.

We pray for the girls and women of Afghanistan
That the fundamental rights of Afghan girls and women, especially their right to receive an education, be respected, we pray to the Lord.
God of the Universe, hear our prayer.

We pray for the girls and women of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
That the girls and women of the Democratic Republic of the Congo cease to be victims of the scourge of sexual violence that is ravaging their country, we pray to the Lord.
God of the Universe, hear our prayer.

We pray for Indigenous girls and women here at home and elsewhere
That the rights of Indigenous girls and women here and elsewhere be respected, and that all forms of violence against them cease, we pray to the Lord.
God of the Universe, hear our prayer.

We pray for the advent of an egalitarian world
The political bodies and civil society organizations work toward building an equal and just world, we pray to the Lord.
God of the Universe, hear our prayer.

We pray for recognition of the role of women in our Church
That the faithful listen attentively to the voice of women in the great decision-making moments in the life of the Church, we pray to the Lord.
God of the Universe, hear our prayer.

We pray for the members of our community
That our local communities work in solidarity to improve the living conditions of women here and elsewhere, we pray to the Lord.
God of the Universe, hear our prayer.