

SHORT TALK

Hello, my name is _____. I'm grateful for this opportunity to talk to you about Development and Peace's Share Lent campaign **Create a Climate of Change**.

For almost 50 years, Development and Peace has been inviting the country's Catholics to celebrate Lent by acting in concrete ways that show compassion towards their sisters and brothers around the world suffering poverty and injustice. It asks us to take this time to show our love, solidarity and generosity.

This year's campaign theme is inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'* (Praise be to you), and by the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Development and Peace, the official international development organization of the Church in Canada, offers us a way to respond to the Pope's invitation. It shows us the path to working together to **Create a Climate of Change** so we can build a just world.

The Holy Father's encyclical calls us to hope. He invites us to consider a courageous question: "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?"

This in turn leads us to other pointed questions found in *Laudato Si'*: "What is the purpose of our life in this world? Why are we here? What is the goal of our work and all our efforts? What need does the Earth have of us?" (LS 160)

Our own dignity is interconnected with that of every human being. Leaving a healthy planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us. By working together, we can preserve our common home.

The Jubilee Year of Mercy invites us to be merciful and forgiving and to join our efforts with our sisters and brothers in the Global South. Hearing the cries of the poor, feeling their pain, understanding the challenges they face – that is compassion. Let us open our eyes and hearts to the suffering of others.

The stories Development and Peace shares this year take us to Indonesia, Paraguay, Haiti, and to the Holy Land to meet our fellow sisters and brothers.

In these countries, as in many others, Development and Peace offers a unique opportunity to reach out to those who are working to improve their living conditions so they can live in peace and dignity.

I want to thank you on behalf of Development and Peace, its partners and the thousands of women and men to whom your love, prayers and solidarity give hope.

For close to 50 years, your trust and generosity have allowed us to create change together and will continue to do so.

I wish you all a good Sunday.

