



Share
Lent 2020



Development
and Peace
CARITAS CANADA

5th Sunday of Lent – Solidarity Sunday

John 11:3–7, 17, 20–27, 33b–45

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”

Today is Solidarity Sunday. When they created Development and Peace in 1967, the Canadian Bishops set aside this day to reflect on loving our sisters and brothers in the world and to share what we can to help those of them who are most vulnerable.

Jesus was moved by the pain that Mary, Martha and their friends felt at the loss of Lazarus. He loved them like his own family. We too, should see those around the world living in poverty, oppression and exclusion as our sisters and brothers and be moved by their suffering.

Acts of love for our sisters and brothers are not about earning our way into heaven. They aren't about showing off. Jesus usually helps people in very humble and quiet ways. He heals, He teaches, He affirms and He saves people. He does so without the pomp and pageantry of “false prophets.” Helping others is not something we do for ourselves; we do it for God.

Helping others is a sign of *caritas*, that is, love received and given. When we see others as God's children and our sisters and brothers, we share with them what we have, knowing that the goodness of Creation is given to all. We encounter Christ in others, and we are transformed by the relationship between sisters and brothers (and not between donors and recipients).

Discussion questions:

- How have we been changed by helping others?
- What are some practical ways in which we can better live in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world?

Bring your donations to church today for the Solidarity Sunday Collection or donate online at devp.org/give.