



ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF REGINA OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

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SHARE LENT 2021

To the Pastor / Pastoral Associate/ Faithful of the Archdiocese of Regina

(To be read on the 3rd Sunday in Lent: March 20th & 21st, 2021)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ of the Archdiocese of Regina,

Warm greetings as we approach the Fifth Sunday of Lent, 'Solidarity Sunday', the day designated by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops for a collection for Development and Peace's Share Lent Campaign. As you may remember, the pandemic hit at exactly this time last year, preventing us from taking up the Share Lent collection last Spring, as our parishes were closed by the time we reached Solidarity Sunday.

During the past year, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and Development and Peace have continued their conversation and taken significant steps towards resolving areas of tension around sponsorship partners. I am grateful to say that we can wholeheartedly support the Share Lent collection, trusting in the moral and social integrity of Development and Peace partners. For those who are interested, you can read the joint communiqué which was released on February 25th and can be found at <https://www.devp.org/en/pressroom/2021/comm2021-02-25>.

The season of Lent invites us to consider the traditional practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Almsgiving is a way of linking us more closely to those in need around us. Often Christ beckons to us through people who are most poor and marginalized, both locally and globally. I encourage you and your parishes to participate whole heartedly in Development and Peace's *Share Love, Share Lent* campaign - inspired by Pope Francis's newest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*. Pope Francis writes, "All of us have a responsibility for the wounded, those of our own people and all the peoples of the earth. Let us care for the needs of every man and woman, young and old, with the same fraternal spirit of care and closeness that marked the Good Samaritan" (*Fratelli Tutti*, 79).

Now into our second year of the global pandemic, there is much upheaval many of our lives. This is even more true for our many brothers and sisters living in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East – excluded and marginalized by a myriad of circumstances, including increased vulnerability to the virus.

I invite you to give as you can on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 21st, and equally to engage in the learning, fasting and prayer opportunities that Development and Peace is providing: <https://www.devp.org/en/region-events/sharelent2021>. Thanks to the generous pledges of a growing number of members of the Canadian Religious Conference, becoming a monthly donor between now and Pentecost Sunday, means your donations would be doubled for one year. To donate or find out more about the *Share Love, Share Lent* campaign, visit: <https://www.devp.org/en/campaign/sharelove>. Thank you in advance for your generosity of time and resources to promote fraternity and social friendship. Wishing you and yours a most blessed Lenten Season.

Yours in the Crucified and Risen Lord,

✠ Donald J. Bolen
Archbishop of Regina

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