



Archdiocese of Vancouver
ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE

Ash Wednesday
February 26, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we journey through the Lenten Season, we devote ourselves to the traditional practices of prayer, fasting and alms-giving. This year, *Caritas Canada* – the Canadian Organization for Development and Peace – is inviting us to join with Pope Francis in reflecting on the Earth as “our common home,” with a particular focus on the Amazon.

With compassion, we turn our eyes to this region, often referred to as “the lungs of the Earth.” It cries out for our attention, because it is suffering devastation caused by indiscriminate mining, deforestation, the destruction of its land, and the poisoning of its waters. As a result, the people of the Amazon live in poverty, experience hunger, have their ancestral lands threatened, and are denied their integral human and spiritual development.

On March 29, together with Catholics across Canada, the Archdiocese of Vancouver will celebrate Solidarity Sunday. On that day, we are called to join in prayer for the Indigenous communities of the Amazon. Moreover, as a sign of your commitment to the stewardship of the Earth entrusted to us by the Creator, I urge you to give generously to the Share Lent collection which supports the development and humanitarian programs sponsored by Development and Peace in the Global South.

A range of opportunities to show your solidarity with the people of the Amazon can be found at <https://rcav.org/share-lent/>. I encourage you to participate.

With gratitude for your support of our brothers and sisters in the Amazon and my prayers for your families during this holy season, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *J. Michael Miller CSB*

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Archbishop of Vancouver