



February 18, 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we journey through this Lenten Season, the Lord Jesus calls us to devote ourselves to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Our Development and Peace organization, *Caritas Canada*, offers us practical ways to respond to this Gospel appeal. This year's Share Lent theme, "Together for Peace," echoes Pope Francis's desire that we "strive to build lasting peace in the world, and to arm ourselves and our children with the weapons of dialogue."

We pray for the true peace of Christ in a world where strife seems endless. We pray for an end to conflict together with our partners in Lebanon, Cambodia, Nigeria, Peru and elsewhere. Through dialogue, they are building bridges of tolerance among peoples, generations, communities, and religions. And we pray not only for the absence of war but also for the establishment of justice.

Today I invite you to join me in this year's Share Lent campaign: that we might work "Together for Peace."

Share Lent resources are available in your parish, on rcav.net and on devp.org, including a Solidarity Calendar to guide you through our Lenten journey. On March 18, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, you will have the opportunity to donate to the Solidarity Sunday Collection in support of this campaign. I urge you to give sacrificially in support of our Development and Peace partners who are on the front lines. In the words of St. Francis of Assisi, may we "be instruments of God's peace." Together let us build a world where peace and justice prevail.

With cordial greetings and my prayers for a blessed Lent, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ J. Michael Miller, CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver