



Catholic Diocese of Victoria

Office of the Bishop

1-4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC V8X 2A1 - Tel: 250-479-1331 - Fax: 250-479-5423 - Web: redvictoria.org

February 23, 2021

Dear Pastors and Administrators,

For over 50 years, the Canadian Catholic Organization for **Development and Peace** (CCOPD) has been organizing its Share Lent campaign during the period of Lent. This time of preparation for the celebration of Easter is an opportunity to raise awareness among parishioners regarding the issues of international solidarity and invite them to practice almsgiving, especially on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, by donating to a special collection for Development and Peace. This collection helps the partners of Development and Peace to meet the needs of some of our poorest brothers and sisters by supporting over 100 projects in 30 countries of the Global South.

This year's campaign theme, *Share Love, Share Lent*, is inspired by the message of love and social fraternity in Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*. Through this campaign, Canadian Catholics will discover how the work of Development and Peace is anchored in Catholic Social Teaching and how we can heed the Pope's call for solidarity and love for our neighbour.

The current pandemic has forced Development and Peace to adapt this Share Lent campaign to new realities, and this year the campaign will mostly take place on line. I encourage you to support the Share Lent campaign in your parishes during Lent by sharing written announcements in your parish bulletins and on your web pages, and by asking parishioners to donate on Solidarity Sunday (March 21st) if you are broadcasting your Mass on line. Your assistance with this important initiative is greatly appreciated.

In Communion,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Gary Gordon'. To the left of the signature is a small black cross symbol.

Most Reverend Gary Gordon
Bishop of Victoria