

January 4, 2023



Dear friends,

We wish you peace, health and happiness as we begin 2023.

As announced last fall, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada is beginning a new campaign cycle this year. Encouraged by our Orientation Assembly in June 2022 and inspired by the October 2021 address of Pope Francis to the World Meeting of Popular Movements, we have chosen the theme **Create Hope** to guide our actions over the next five years. At the Orientation Assembly, our keynote speaker and guest of honour, Cardinal Michael Czerny, spoke along the same lines.



*"[...] today it seems there's a real scarcity of hope. So there's need for artistry, poetry, creativity. And that isn't just idle words or pretty words. That means changing the basic things that are leading to our hopelessness, and those are the selfishness and the self-centeredness that are built into our economic, social and political systems."*

— Cardinal Michael Czerny, in an interview at the Orientation Assembly on June 18, 2022

How can we create hope? By taking action! Because the best antidote to despair is action. We hope to mobilize our membership in creative ways to bring about the change we want to see, and with it, the hope of a better and more just world.

Under the broad theme **Create Hope**, you are being invited this year to **Stand for the Land**, in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Global South who are defending their homelands by protecting their land and water, the environment and human life. Through the pages of the Mini-magazine, you will be transported to Colombia and Honduras. In March, you will also have a chance to meet solidarity visitors from those two countries, as well as from Cambodia.

It is with great joy that we invite you to join the Share Lent campaign that Development and Peace has been organizing for over 55 years. This time of preparation for Easter is a time of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Every year, Development and Peace invites Canadian Catholics to donate to the **Solidarity Sunday collection (March 26, this year)**. Your donations support projects that transform lives and communities!

To help us spread the word about the Share Lent campaign and to encourage donations during this special collection for Development and Peace, we have made several resources available, both online (therefore **easily printable**) and in print.

This year, limited quantities of the following paper materials are available to order:

1. **Poster *Create Hope – Stand for the Land*** (12" x 18") (limit of 2 per parish/school)
2. **Mini-magazine** (limit of 200) — **Keep it all year long, it can be used beyond Lent!**
3. **Prayer Card *Create Hope*** (limit of 200) — **Useful for the next five years!**
4. **Bilingual collection envelope** — with the Montreal head office's return address
5. **Bilingual collection envelope** — without the return address
6. **Solidarity jar sticker for the Solidarity Calendar** (while supplies last)



To order, complete the online form at [devp.org/sharelent/order](https://devp.org/sharelent/order) by **January 25, 2023**. Order early to ensure the availability of your chosen resources. Please allow three to five weeks for delivery.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us (preferably by email). At busy times, it may take us a few days to respond. Thank you for understanding.

Email: [distribution@devp.org](mailto:distribution@devp.org)

Toll-free: 1 888 234-8533, ext. 600

Telephone: 514 257-8710, ext. 600

Visit [devp.org/lent/resources](https://devp.org/lent/resources) starting late January to discover all of our resources, including a short talk, the Way of the Cross, parish bulletin announcements, the Solidarity Calendar, weekly reflections, Prayers of the faithful, promotional banners, and more!

Join us on  
**February 25, 2023,**  
**at 1:30 p.m.**  
for the **national launch webinar**  
with our **solidarity visitors**.

Register at:  
[devp.org/events](https://devp.org/events)

- Use the resources to **promote the campaign** on parish or diocesan websites and on social media.
- Join a **Share Lent workshop** to learn more. Ask your local animator or check our website for dates and times.

This Lent, let's **Create Hope** for a world of peace and justice and **Stand for the Land** and its peoples! Please give generously this Share Lent!

In solidarity,



*Carl Héту*

Carl Héту  
Executive Director  
Development and Peace — Caritas Canada

In October 2022, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada, the official international solidarity organization of the Catholic Church in Canada, celebrated 55 years of solidarity. [...] **We are proud of the struggles for social change that the organization has supported over the years and look forward to continuing our commitment in the years to come.**

[This Lent], I invite you to **Create Hope** by supporting Development and Peace's **Stand for the Land** campaign. Give generously, get involved in your community, be the hands and feet of Christ in the world: "[...] let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth" (1 John 3:18).\*

Fraternally in our Lord,



*+ Raymond Poisson*

† Raymond Poisson  
Bishop of Saint-Jérôme-Mont-Laurier  
President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB)

\* Excerpted from the CCCB President's message of support available at [devp.org/lent/resources](https://devp.org/lent/resources).