

Symbols of Solidarity



**REAPING
OUR RIGHTS**

Presenting the symbols of solidarity is an optional activity that will help illustrate the 2024 Share Lent campaign theme *Create Hope – Reaping our Rights*. These symbols can be presented in Christian communities during an activity or during the entrance procession of Solidarity Sunday—the fifth Sunday of Lent—which will be celebrated this year on March 17. It is important that leaders of the pastoral team in your Christian community be informed beforehand about the arrangements needed for presenting the symbols. In schools, the symbols of solidarity can be presented at a meeting in a gymnasium, an auditorium or some other appropriate place. Below are some suggestions to help you facilitate this activity.

Organization

- Adapt the presentation of the symbols of solidarity to the time you have available.
- Choose the people who will present and show the symbols to the assembly.
- Determine with the person presiding over the celebration where the symbols of solidarity will be placed after they have been presented.

Procedure

The symbols of solidarity can be presented by one person while another shows them to the assembly. It can also be done by four groups of two people (one group per symbol). While one person presents a symbol, the other holds it up and shows it to the assembly. Once a symbol has been presented, the person holding it can keep it in the designated place and stand aside to make room for the next symbol to be presented. When all the symbols have been presented, the presenters return to their seats.

Suggested Symbols of Solidarity



A **watering can**, to illustrate the care that must be given to seedlings to ensure their growth, which is like the care that Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's partners give to the communities they accompany so that they can reap their rights.



A **notebook with the image of a hoe** (a gardening tool), to illustrate the willingness of young villagers to learn farming; their desire to ensure that agriculture as an occupation survives into the next generation; and their preference for sustainable, eco-friendly production methods.



A **transparent glass, Mason jar or beaker containing soil**, water and oil allowed to naturally settle into three layers, to represent the contamination of land by decades of socially irresponsible oil extraction in Nigeria.



A **milk container**, to illustrate how small-scale pastoralists are learning sustainable dairy farming techniques and transforming their milk production into cheese, yogurt or ice cream to diversify and increase their families' income.

Introduction

Lent is a time of conversion that invites us to draw closer to God, to Jesus, and to our sisters and brothers here and in the Global South. During this Lenten season, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada, the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada, invites us to turn our eyes and hearts to the work of its partners around the world and the communities they accompany.

Our symbols of solidarity celebrate their bravery. They reflect people's determination to live with dignity and to decide their own futures. They also remind us of our responsibility to these communities.

Reaping our Rights means standing in solidarity with the peasant and small-scale farmers of the world who feed humankind while caring for the Earth, our Common Home. Together, let us **Create Hope** for a better world, and fight against the root causes of poverty, inequality and oppression.



1st SYMBOL
A watering can

This watering can symbolizes the care of the garden—the one in both the physical and the inner, spiritual worlds. It therefore represents not only the caring of plants so that they grow, but also the care our partners give to communities so that they can reap their rights.

We know that we reap what we sow. So, let’s sow dignity, love, peace and justice to address the inequalities and injustices experienced by many impoverished populations. Let’s stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Global South, especially those in rural areas who are facing increasing hardship because of climate change, land-grabbing, resource theft, soil contamination and armed conflict.

Our mission: to support our sisters and brothers in their struggles to reap love, dignity, peace and justice for the integral human development of all.

To live your faith and act for justice, become a member of Development and Peace — Caritas Canada.



3rd SYMBOL
A notebook with a picture of a hoe (or other gardening tool)

This notebook illustrates the willingness to learn of young villagers who want to secure the futures of their villages by implementing sustainable, eco-friendly agroecological production.

In Indonesia, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada’s partner **PAYOPAYO** supports the organization of village communities that work together to find solutions to common challenges related to agriculture, food, energy, sustainable resource management and rural youth engagement. PAYOPAYO has set up an agricultural school for young people, especially women, to hone their skills in sustainable small-scale farming and stem their exodus to urban areas for work in the industrial and service sectors.

Their mission: to ensure the food and energy sovereignty of villages, so that farmers can live in dignity and enjoy healthy, sustainable lifestyles.



2nd SYMBOL
A transparent glass, Mason jar or beaker containing soil, water and oil

The soil, water and oil in this container represent the contamination of land caused by socially irresponsible oil extraction.

In Nigeria, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada’s partner **HOMEF** (Health of Mother Earth Foundation) works on issues related to climate justice, food sovereignty and pollution. HOMEF defends the rights of farmers in southern Nigeria whose lands have been contaminated by the oil industry.

Their mission: to build ecological knowledge and support wholesome socio-ecologically cohesive communities where people live in solidarity and dignity.



4th SYMBOL
Milk

This milk evokes the work of small dairy farmers who sell some of their milk and process the rest into cheese, yogurt, butter or ice cream to diversify and increase their families’ incomes.

In Bolivia, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada’s partner **Fundación NUNA** supports various agroecology projects in rural communities to improve Indigenous peasant families’ living conditions; promote food sovereignty; and enhance environmental preservation.

Their mission: to contribute to the economic, political, social and cultural development of each individual, while building just and equitable relationships that preserve life and nature.

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