

Lent is a season of repentance, reflection, and repair. It is when our Church encourages us to help transform our world by giving generously to Development and Peace — Caritas Canada.

That is the organization I'm here to tell you about. It was created by our bishops as the official international development and solidarity organization of the Canadian Catholic Church. It supports vital sustainable development and humanitarian aid projects that serve some of our most vulnerable and marginalized sisters and brothers in dozens of countries across the Global South.

Every year, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's Share Lent campaign invites us to learn more about these projects and support them with our generosity. This gives us an opportunity to follow the example of Jesus, who, Pope Leo XIV says, "identified himself with the lowest ranks of society" and "confirms the dignity of every human being" through his love.

By standing in solidarity with society's neglected people whom Development and Peace — Caritas Canada serves, we can walk in Christ's footsteps, mirror his loving gaze, and bring our relationship with him and our faith to fruition.

This Lent, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's **On Track for Justice** campaign takes us to Brazil. There, one of its partners, *Justiça nos Trilhos*, is helping communities affected by a railway line. Hundreds of open rail cars pass over the tracks every day, carrying ore from one of the world's iron mines to a port nearly 900 kilometres away. Dust and air and noise pollution from these trains have poisoned the lands and made life unbearable for trackside communities.

Meanwhile, industrial farming has led to widespread deforestation and even more toxic pollution from planes that spray pesticides over fields and communities. Lost forests and poisoned soils, waterways and livestock have devastated people's health and livelihoods.

After a 20-year-struggle, *Justiça nos Trilhos* managed to have a community 312 families relocated a safe distance away from these troubles. The people can finally raise their children in peace and safety. Such transformations are only possible because donations from people like you allow Development and Peace — Caritas Canada to support partners like *Justiça nos Trilhos*.

So, **please give generously to Development and Peace — Caritas Canada**. Your Lenten gift will make real difference by helping hundreds of communities like the one in Brazil. It will further our mission of addressing the root causes of poverty and help build a more just and compassionate world. Above all, it will uphold the dignity of the very sorts of people whom Christ came to save.

Thank you for your generosity.