

SHORT TALK

Good morning/afternoon/evening,

My name is _____ and I am speaking on behalf of Development and Peace – Caritas Canada.

The past year has been marked by the COVID-19 pandemic. It has shaken social, economic and political structures globally. In his catechesis on the pandemic, Pope Francis implores us to work together as one human family to overcome the global challenges we are facing. Already, we have witnessed many beautiful acts of kindness and love. The *Share Lent* campaign invites you to take part in this beauty by following our merciful and just Lord Jesus.

Share Lent has been a tradition in Canadian parishes since 1968. It was established to embody the two pillars of social action—charity and justice—that Pope Benedict XVI described as “not only social, but also spiritual actions, accomplished in the light of the Holy Spirit”¹.

Each year, the campaign reaches schools, parishes, and the members of our communities across Canada. It tells the stories of our sisters and brothers in the Global South. Not stories of poverty and misery, but of incredible strength, resourcefulness and courage. Stories of people working together to change the unjust social, economic and political situations that hinder their integral human development. Development and Peace and its partners can accompany and support them in their quest for justice because thousands of Canadians like you volunteer for and donate to *Share Lent* every year.

This year, our campaign theme is *Share Love, Share Lent*. It is inspired by the message of social fraternity conveyed by our Pope in his latest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*. Today’s collection is an opportunity to honour the Holy Father’s message as a global community and to find inspiration from the parable of the Good Samaritan which is at the centre of his encyclical. It is a way of doing our part so that, as the Pope hopes, “every person lives with dignity and has sufficient opportunities for his or her integral development”².

Please give generously!

You can give online on Development and Peace’s website, devp.org. Or you can call 1 888 234-8533 to donate. If you prefer giving by cheque, please mail it to the head office in Montreal. You can find the address on the website or get it from me later. Should you have any more questions about the campaign, feel free to contact me at _____.

Thank you very much for your donations!

They make a big difference in the world.

Thank you for sharing love today.

1 General audience of April 25, 2012.

2 *Fratelli Tutti*, 118 (2020).