



Prot. no. 068/2024

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE SHARE LENT CAMPAIGN 2024

Dear brother priests,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the new campaign from Development and Peace – Caritas Canada. Building on last year's theme of **Create Hope**, the 2024 campaign, **Reaping our Rights**, will create bridges of solidarity with small-scale farmers and peasant communities around the world.

This campaign will be an opportunity to recognize their vital role in global food production and rural development. More than ever, these communities are facing challenges like armed conflicts, land grabbing, agribusiness, mining, soil contamination and climate change, which are causing or exacerbating droughts, floods, fires and hurricanes.

The **Reaping our Rights** campaign will raise awareness of the need to acknowledge, enshrine and safeguard peasant peoples' rights to land, water, justice, equality, gender equity, health, a safe environment, food sovereignty, biodiversity, education and housing.

In *Laudate Deum*, Pope Francis reminds us that "Everything is connected" and "No one is saved alone". It follows that Canadians have a duty to ensure that peasants' rights, human rights and environmental rights are fully respected, not only in Canada but everywhere in the world.

I therefore hope you will join the Create Hope – **Reaping our Rights** campaign wholeheartedly through its Lenten and fall phases by:

- Supporting the D&P members of your parish in facilitating the Share Lent campaign in your church

- Encouraging your communities to **give generously to Share Lent** (especially, on Solidarity Sunday, i.e., the 5th Sunday of Lent, March 17, 2024), in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Global South who feed the planet while taking care of our Common home.
- Participating in the **education and action campaign** in fall to encourage Canada to do more for small-scale farmers and peasants around the world.

I invite you to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world through your generosity, engagement and solidarity; to “Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you” (Hosea 10:12).

Fraternally in our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+Thomas Dowd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

+Thomas Dowd
Bishop of Sault Ste-Marie

2024-02-02