

## Pastor's Corner - April 3, 2011 - Share Lent

Next Sunday will be Solidarity Sunday when we are invited to contribute to Share Lent, the official campaign of the Canadian Bishops to support integral development in the Third World through Development and Peace. John-Paul II said: "Lent is a unique time of charity manifested in our spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Our thoughts go especially to those excluded from the banquet of everyday consumerism ... and reminding us... to undertake brave plans and projects to ensure a more just sharing of the good of the earth." Our Bishop sent the following letter:

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we prepare to observe the Holy Season of Lent, I wish to encourage you to support the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace and the "Share Lent" Campaign.

Central to the teachings of Jesus is that all should have "enough" to enable life with dignity. The recent Encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* affirms that the Disciples of the Lord not only believe in the just development of peoples, but work towards justice becoming a reality. Your support of, and involvement with, Development and Peace, an initiative of the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops, is one way we can put our Catholic Faith into Action to help build justice in the world.

This Lent the promotional material from Development and Peace identifies a number of on-going Global South partners and how they work together, on a variety of projects to contribute to "*Building a World of Justice*". I encourage you to read the materials provided by Development and Peace which demonstrate this good work. This on-going work of development means that we have partners throughout the world who are prepared when tragedy strikes, as happened in Haiti, Pakistan and numerous other places this year. Your Share Lent contributions enabled appropriate aid for people needing immediate assistance. A portion of each Share Lent collection is set aside for emergencies such as these.

We are fortunate to have a number of *ThinkFasts* occurring throughout our Diocese this year. I encourage our youth to participate and our parish communities to support these efforts. It is vitally important for all of us to understand that our faith requires us to be a part of the solution to the many social and environmental challenges with which we are confronted today.

I thank you, on behalf of the Diocese of Victoria, and in the name of those in need, for your continued generosity and support of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. Your support, whether financial or as a volunteer, is greatly appreciated.

I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide us through our Lenten journey so that we may, both individually and collectively, experience the rebirth of unity, hope and justice which comes to us through the death and resurrection of the Lord.

Yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Richard Gagnon  
Bishop of Victoria