

JOIN OUR LENTEN PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE
This Jubilee year, Pope Francis calls us to be "Pilgrims of Hope." Join us as we journey together for the next 40 days!

Get ready! Decorate a recycled container in which to collect donations throughout Lent. Bring the money you collect to your parish's Solidarity Sunday collection or donate online at devp.org/give.

When you see this icon, go to devp.org/lentcalendar.

When you see this icon, your challenge earns you a D&P Schools badge! Not familiar with the program? Discover it at devp.org/schools.
Happy Share Lent!

Solidarity calendar

March 5 Ash Wednesday. Wishing you a Holy Ash Wednesday and a blessed Lent! Today's actions watch our Share Lent video and share it with others.

March 6 Sow a mustard seed and watch it grow! Small acts of generosity can make a BIG impact.

March 7 2025 is a Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church. A Jubilee is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation in which people are invited to renew their relationship with God, others and Creation. Watch this video to learn more.

March 8 International Women's Day. Learn how our partners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are working towards equality and justice for women!

March 9 First Sunday of Lent. Our first Symbol of Solidarity, a walking stick, illustrates the pilgrimage we are undertaking in this Jubilee year.

March 10 Dignity of the Human Person. The foundation of Catholic Social Teaching is the inherent dignity of the human person, which calls us to treat everyone with respect. The debt crisis, however, undermines the dignity of our impoverished sisters and brothers.

March 11 3.3 billion people live in countries that spend more on debt repayments than on education or health. Watch this video to discover how debt affects impoverished countries.

March 12 Did you know? It would take 5 planet Earths worth of resources for all the world's 8 billion people to live the way Canadians do! Reflect: How can we live more simply?

March 13 Our Peruvian partners CEAS and IBC accompany communities affected by mining to whom we owe an "ecological debt." Watch this video and spend some time in reflection.

March 14 Give up a treat and donate what you would have spent on it.

March 15 It's baking time! Make and sell some baked goods to raise funds for Development and Peace - Caritas Canada (D&PCC). Every donation helps our partners fight injustice. Thank you!

March 16 Second Sunday of Lent. Our second Symbol of Solidarity, a pencil and clipboard, encourages everyone to sign our petition to cancel debt and break the debt cycle.

March 17 The Catholic Social Teaching of Common Good asks us to prioritize what is good for all human beings and the planet above commercial interests. The debt crisis hurts many people by taking away resources needed for healthcare and education.

March 18 Pray for our sisters and brothers who are weighed down by heavy burdens of debt. Use the campaign prayer.

March 19 Care for the Earth! Today, pick up any garbage you see along your way. Don't forget to wear gloves and wash your hands afterwards! Give \$2 for your good deed!

March 20 Learn about food supply chains with D&PCC's Banana Split game. It works best played as a group!

March 21 Challenge: pick one meal today to make entirely of locally grown ingredients. This is especially tricky in winter!

March 22 World Water Day. Water is essential to life, so let's take care to not waste it! Watch The Story of Bottled Water.

March 23 Third Sunday of Lent. Our third Symbol of Solidarity, a scale, represents the unjust ecological debt owed to countries of the Global South.

March 24 Preferential Option for the Poor. The most vulnerable—the young who need education, the ill who need healthcare, the poor who need jobs—suffer the most from the debt crisis.

March 25 In this Jubilee year, think of how we may respond to Pope Francis' call to "commit ourselves to remedying the remote causes of injustice, settling unjust and unpayable debts" (Spes non confundit, 16).

March 26 Go for a walk in nature and spend time in the beauty of God's Creation.

March 27 In Tunisia, our partner OTE is raising public awareness around debt issues so that people can demand fairer, more equitable development that benefits all people.

March 28 What does solidarity mean to you? Learn more about this and other Catholic Social Teachings at devp.org/131.

March 29 Give \$2 to support Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's partners, the CEAS, IBC and OTE.

March 30 Fourth Sunday of Lent. This week's Symbol of Solidarity, an ultra-heavy dollar sign, represents the weight of debt on the shoulders of our sisters and brothers in the Global South.

March 31 Ecological responsibility. The Earth is sacred. Unfortunately, many wealthy countries exploit the resources of poorer nations, causing harm to people and planet. Let's raise awareness about the "ecological debt" owed to them.

April 1 (Re)watch the animated For Our Common Home video. What is one tangible thing you can do today to take care of the Earth?

April 2 Paint rocks with messages of justice, peace and love and strewn them around your neighbourhood to raise awareness and create hope.

April 3 There are great inequalities between the world's richest and poorest people. Reflect: How could we live in a more just and equitable world?

April 4 Last year, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada supported 75 projects in 34 countries. Donate 10¢ for every country supported.

April 5 This year, we join Caritas Internationalis and many voices around the world who want to Turn Debt into Hope. Give \$1 in solidarity with our sisters and brothers who carry the burden of unjust debt.

April 6 Solidarity Sunday. Bring your donation jar to church for today's Solidarity Sunday collection or donate online at devp.org/give. THANK YOU!

April 7 Solidarity. We are all part of one big human family, and we must act to ensure that impoverished peoples prosper by reducing the foreign debt of countries in the Global South.

April 8 Find the tag on your shirt and research where it was made. How are garment workers treated in that country?

April 9 Grab a pair of dice and play Solidarity Snakes & Ladders to learn more about D&PCC's work.

April 10 Flip the world! It's map, that is. Start a conversation around D&PCC's guiding principle, the preferential option for the poor.

April 11 Get creative! Make your own Share Lent poster using our Turn Debt into Hope theme.

April 12 Think of what you can do in your actual community to help change the structures that generate poverty and injustices in the Global South.

April 13 Palm Sunday. Let us pray for the courage to create hope and stand in solidarity with those who are enduring unjust situations.

April 14 This Holy Thursday is the deadline for signing our Reaping Our Rights petition. Visit devp.org/act to sign.

April 15 Has the seed you planted grown? With time, love and care, we can all grow, too! Post a picture and tag @DevPeace.

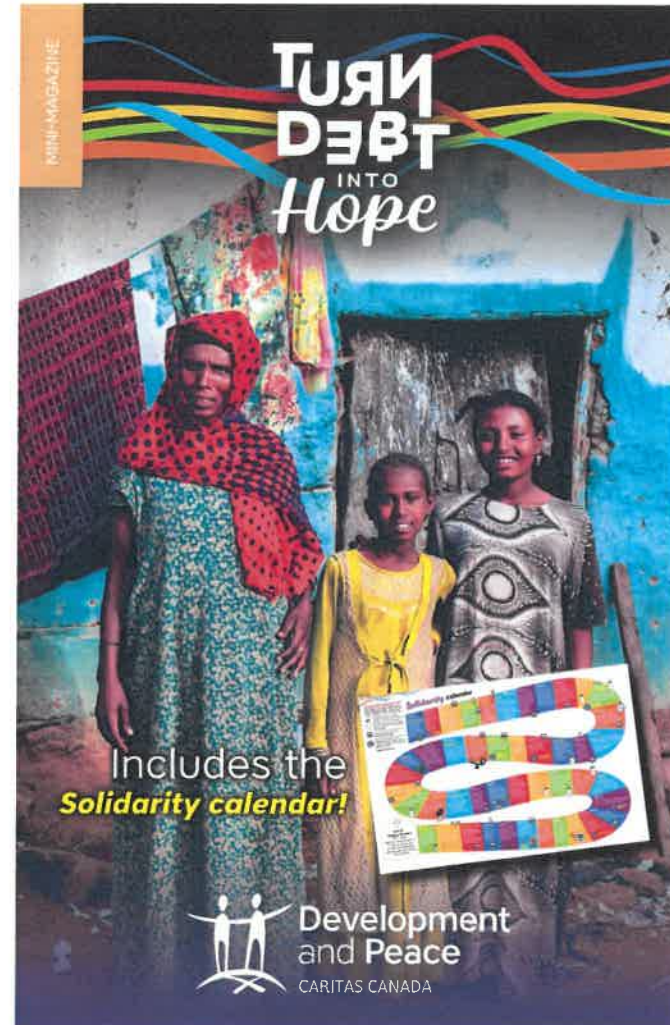
April 16 Want the inside scoop? Sign up for updates at devp.org/newsletter.

April 17 Holy Thursday. International Day of Peasant Struggles. Are you a D&PCC member yet? Join us to help spread solidarity and "wash one another's feet."

April 18 Good Friday. Today, we commemorate the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus. Please keep D&PCC's partners in your prayers on this day.

April 19 Holy Saturday. Would your family want to Share Year-Round? Consider giving monthly to support our partners effectively and sustainably.

April 20 Happy Easter! He is risen! May his rising inspire us to live as Jesus did, in love and solidarity, sharing with our sisters and brothers.



To turn debt into hope, we all have a role to play.

- Please give generously: devp.org/give
- Online at devp.org/give
- During the **Share Lent** parish collection
- By calling **1-888-234-8533**
- By mailing a **cheque** (made out to Development and Peace) to: 555 René-Lévesque Blvd. West, 8th floor, Montreal, Quebec H2Z 1B1

- Sign the petition: devp.org/debt
- Let's **Turn Debt Into Hope** and act together to:
 - Cancel unjust and unsustainable debts
 - Prevent further debt crises by tackling the root causes of indebtedness
 - Establish a multilateral debt resolution mechanism within the United Nations

"The campaigns of Development and Peace — Caritas Canada are about the suffering of impoverished countries. They open up opportunities for establishing new relationships with nature, between people, societies and even between countries of the Global South and the Global North. We feel like companions on the road and are very grateful for your support."
— **Elvin Hernández**, human rights investigator, ERIC-Radio Progreso, Honduras

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY

Join the movement: devp.org/joinus

Campaign as a member to raise funds and awareness and to amplify the calls for justice, peace and dignity of our sisters and brothers in the Global South.

Generations of commitment

"The work of Development and Peace — Caritas Canada is the purest materialization of the Gospel. The organization educates Canadians about the root causes of injustice and poverty, and the role they can play in reversing these trends. Our donations and our commitment contribute to the self-determination of our sisters and brothers in the countries of the Global South, so that their communities can live in dignity."
— **Abbot Pierre Bergevin**, 103, Gatineau, Que.

"Being part of Development and Peace — Caritas Canada has been transformative for me as a young woman. It's given me the chance to grow as a leader, find my voice, and build hope, not just for myself, but for others. Being part of D&PCC empowers young people to stand up for justice and a more sustainable future."
— **Ana Sofia López Lara**, 18, London, Ont.

DISCOVER THE D&P SCHOOLS PROGRAM!

Over 400 schools and communities are enthusiastically participating in the D&P Schools Program and collecting 23 badges! Join the fun and register at devp.org/schools.

DONATE MONTHLY Become a Share Year-Round member

A great way to support us is to become a **Share Year-Round** monthly donor. Your recurring, predictable donations reduce our administrative costs and allow us to plan longer-term transformative work. You also become a member of the organization and join a family of over **12,800 Canadians** who share your values and your convictions!

This Lent double your impact! Start or increase your monthly donations any time between Ash Wednesday (March 5) and Pentecost (June 8) to have your total annual donation (or increase thereof) matched dollar for dollar! See details at devp.org/shareyearround.

"I like the idea that by giving, we are contributing to the wide range of Development and Peace — Caritas Canada projects. It gives us the foundation we need to build long-term partnerships, which is why I'm a **Share Year-Round** donor."
— **Gabrielle Dupuis**, monthly donor and vice-president of the national council, Ottawa, Ontario

Leave a Legacy of Hope

Enjoy attractive tax benefits as you pursue your commitment to Development and Peace — Caritas Canada. To learn more about bequests and planned giving, please call **1-888-234-8533**.

How your dollar makes a difference



IN CANADA,
→ You **contribute to campaigns** that raise awareness about the causes of impoverishment and **inspire Canadians to advocate and act for change.**

OVERSEAS,
→ You **support programs and projects** run by local partners that are trusted by the communities they serve in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

"As we work together toward a better world, your support strengthens not only our efforts, but the shared hope that we can bring about lasting change through solidarity and love. Your generosity is a testament to the boundless compassion that unites us all as one human family. May we continue to walk together in faith and action, creating a brighter future for all."
— **The Most Rev. Jorge Izaguirre**, Bishop of Chocoma, outgoing president of CEAS

Our mission

Development and Peace — Caritas Canada, the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada, is a democratic movement for **global solidarity** rooted in **Catholic Social Teaching** that champions women and social movements as key agents of lasting change.

Every year, our campaigns unite Canadians and forge links between them and our partners in the Global South. Together, we work to build a world of justice and fight the root causes of poverty, oppression and inequality.

Join us!

This year, as part of Jubilee 2025, we are responding to Pope Francis's call and joining the global **Turn Debt into Hope** campaign, so that our sisters and brothers in the Global South can live in dignity, free from the burden of unjust debt.



"Another heartfelt appeal that I would make... is directed to the more affluent nations. I ask that they acknowledge the gravity of so many of their past decisions and determine to **forgive the debts** of countries that will never be able to repay them. More than a question of generosity, this is a matter of justice."

— Pope Francis (*Spes non confundit*, §16)

A word from the president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

In this year of the Jubilee 2025, we are called to be Pilgrims of Hope. Inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, the bishops of Canada, as part of our Jubilee journey in Canada, join the global Catholic campaign, **Turn Debt into Hope**. Let's restore hope for people by alleviating the insurmountable and unjust debt that burdens many countries of the world.

A matter of justice

In the name of all the bishops of Canada, I invite you to act alongside Development and Peace — Caritas Canada, the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada, by:

- Encouraging your communities to give generously to Share Lent (especially on Solidarity Sunday, the fifth Sunday of Lent, April 6, 2025), in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Global South who face the injustice of insurmountable debt for which they are not responsible
- Signing the global petition calling for the cancellation of unjust debts, a reform of the international financial system, and the creation of a **comprehensive debt framework** within the United Nations

Together, through this campaign, may we show forth the justice and compassion of Christ through our acts of generosity, engagement and solidarity. As Pope Francis reminds us, "If we really wish to prepare a path to peace in our world, let us commit ourselves to remedying the remote causes of injustice, settling unjust and unpayable debts, and feeding the hungry." (*Spes non confundit*, §16). Let this be our witness in this Jubilee year.

Fraternalty in our Lord,



† William T. McGrattan,
Bishop of Calgary
President, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

(Excerpted from the CCCB president's message of support available at cccb.org/2025/resources.)

What is a Jubilee?



Celebrated every 25 years in the Catholic Church, a Jubilee is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationships with God, with one another, and with all of Creation. The tradition is inspired by the biblical year of jubilee, a time when debts were cancelled, slaves were set free and the land was allowed to rest (Lev. 25, Deut. 15).

This year, under the theme "Pilgrims of Hope," Pope Francis invites Catholics to renew their hope and adopt a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone."

"Debt relief is urgent. It is, in many ways, a precondition for the poorest countries to make progress in their fight against poverty."

— John Paul II,

Message for the Jubilee 2000 debt campaign



Turn Debt into Hope

In 2000, during a Jubilee Year, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada took part in a global campaign whose resounding success led to the cancellation of over \$100 billion in foreign debt for 36 of the world's most impoverished countries.

But today, more than 100 countries in the Global South are facing a debt crisis, as the structural causes of indebtedness have not changed. Moreover, the situation has worsened with predatory lending, the economic effects of the pandemic and global inflation.

Today, 3.3 billion people live in countries that spend more on debt servicing than on health or education.

That's why we are joining our voices to those of Caritas Internationalis and others around the world who want to end these injustices. This Lent, join us in signing the petition and giving generously to support the courageous work of our partners in the Global South. **Together, let's end unjust debt and create hope to build a better world!**

External debt and ecological debt:

Who owes whom?

Countries in the Global South face crushing debt payments that keep them from investing in their people. At the same time, countries in the Global North owe them an "ecological debt" for exploiting their resources and destroying their environment. This destruction drives climate change, which most adversely affects societies in the Global South that are least responsible for it. Pope Francis calls our attention to this injustice in *Laudato Si'*. We believe that recognizing ecological debt is a vital step toward addressing the global debt crisis and creating a sustainable, just future for all.

Our presence in the world

Development and Peace — Caritas Canada places human dignity at the heart of its mission.

We support communities in the Global South in taking charge of their own development through projects that address the **root causes of poverty**.

Our work around the world from September 1, 2023, to August 31, 2024

\$9.9 million invested

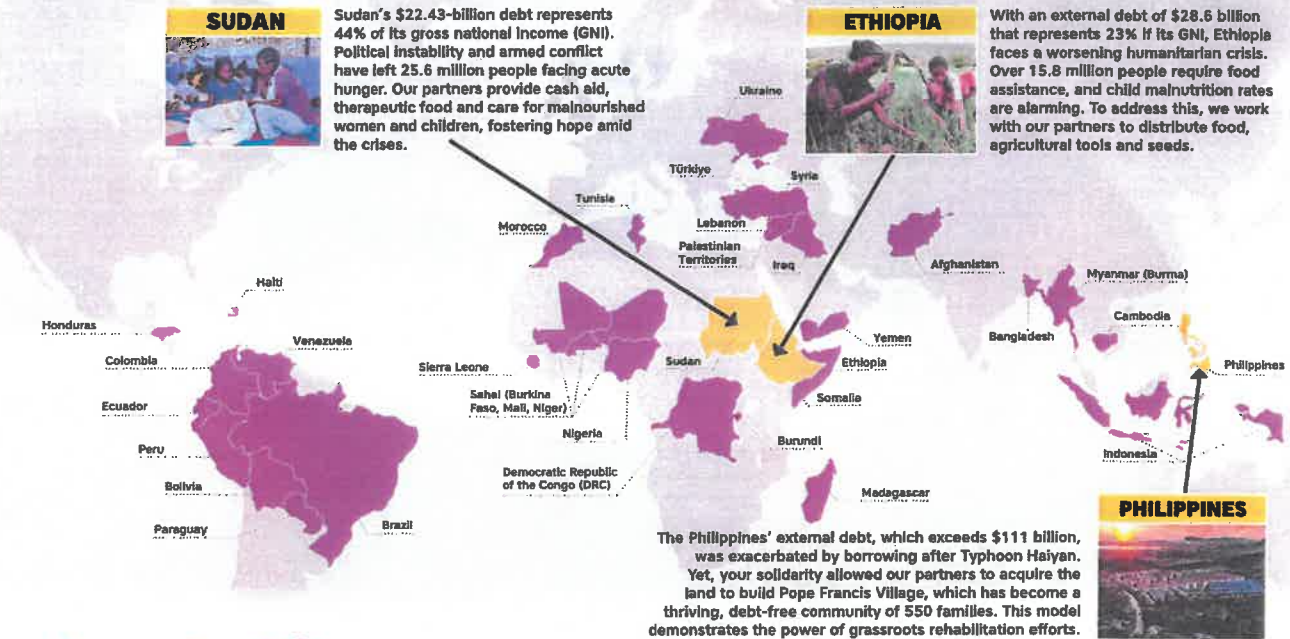
79 community development and humanitarian aid projects

34 countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East

11.2 million people reached by our overseas projects and programs

Our work focuses on:

- Ecological justice
- Citizen participation
- Justice for women
- Peace and reconciliation



Our partners make the difference

PERU: Ecological debt and mining

Peru faces an ecological debt crisis as extractive industries, often foreign-owned, deplete its natural resources, harm the environment and human rights. These industries unjustly enrich the Global North at the Global South's expense. Our partners, the Comisión Episcopal de Acción Social (CEAS, Episcopal Commission for Social Action) and the Institut Bartolomé de Las Casas (IBC) work closely with affected communities, advocating for justice and sustainable alternatives.

"Sustained by the historical imbalance between the economies of the North and South, Peru continues to welcome false promises of 'development' from foreign transnationals operating with serious consequences for human rights, indigenous peoples and the environment. This system impoverishes local populations while sidelining development alternatives based on their ancestral knowledge. CEAS supports affected communities through information, training and advocacy, empowering them to stand for their rights and futures."

— Javier Jahinck, human rights lawyer, CEAS.

"Our territory is under concession without our consent. The extractive companies want to move our territory to get the oil, damaging places like the *ojos de agua* [eyes of water]. These water sources are vital to us, the Asháninka, providing water not only for us but for other species. This economic model is not ours as Indigenous peoples; it distances us from Mother Nature and our spirituality."

— Karen Pamela Huere Cristobal, Indigenous Asháninka activist, Peru.

GLAS at a glance

ESTABLISHED: 1965

MISSION: To proclaim the joy of the Gospel in its social dimension, encouraging and articulating a national social pastoral from the option for the poor, promoting an active citizenship with the capacity of advocacy in the defense and enforceability of human rights, the search for the common good and integral ecology.

IMPACT: 29,900 people reached by our project, *Rights based advocacy towards socio ecological and systemic change with Peruvian church networks.*

IBC at a glance

ESTABLISHED: 1974 (founded by Gustavo Gutiérrez, one of the fathers of liberation theology).

MISSION: To contribute to the liberation and human development of local populations through training, emphasizing the preferential option for the poor.

IMPACT: 760 people trained at the Hugo Echegaray Community Leadership School.

"The environmental impact of mining in my province is severe: it pollutes water, air and soil, and the water around the mines contains heavy metals that harm the population. Economic inequality and distrust have grown within the communities. We're fighting for change and I urge society to listen and support us in this conflict in the province of Espinar."

— Gerson Nilo Pérez Camercoo, Territorial Coordinator of Human Rights Without Borders, Peru.

At its Hugo Echegaray School, our partner IBC is training the community leaders of today and tomorrow.

Trainees are equipped to lead the:

- Inclusion and empowerment of marginalized communities, including women and Indigenous peoples
- Defence of human rights and the environment threatened by extractive industries
- Revitalization of regional social organizations and church networks by local activists



In October 2024, the IBC marked its 50th anniversary with a gathering in Lima at which young people reflected on current problems and proposed solutions. Development and Peace — Caritas Canada supported this initiative and made it possible for two Canadian youths to participate in this event.

TUNISIA: Demanding fairer policies

Our partner, the Tunisian Economic Observatory (OTE), analyzes Tunisia's debt policies, revealing how resource mismanagement and unfair international conditions trap the country in debt. OTE empowers citizens to demand equitable policies and sustainable economic alternatives through workshops and advocacy, fostering a fairer and more inclusive economic approach that benefits the entire Tunisian population.



OTE at a glance

ESTABLISHED: 2013

MISSION: To empower the people of North Africa by democratizing economic issues and facilitating access to information, enabling citizens, institutions and associations to play an active part in sustainable development.

IMPACT: 400 people participated in OTE workshops and more than 10,000 were reached online via the web and social media to strengthen democracy, inform citizens about economic reforms and help them influence public policy.