



Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough

March 2, 2022

Ash Wednesday

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In 2020, Pope Francis issued his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, encouraging us to build the bonds of solidarity in the midst of the pandemic. The Holy Father observed that “a worldwide tragedy like the Covid-19 pandemic momentarily revived the sense that we are a global community, all in the same boat, where one person’s problems are the problems of all. Once more we realized that no one is saved alone; we can only be saved together.”

And yet, how easy it is for us to forget this feeling of global community. In the Global South, the pandemic has been made worse by a lack of medical resources and long histories of underdevelopment, even as communities face other challenges, like the impacts of climate change.

I am grateful, therefore, for the [People and Planet First](#) campaign of Development and Peace – Caritas Canada, the global solidarity organization of our Church in Canada, which reminds us of Pope Francis’s call to be a global community. This annual Share Lent campaign is a practical means for us to walk with our brothers and sisters in the Global South, seeking to build a more just and equitable world.

We can practice the Lenten tradition of almsgiving by donating to a special Development and Peace collection to be taken up on Solidarity Sunday (3 April 2022). The funds that are gathered will allow Development and Peace to fulfill its mission and to help transform lives in almost 30 countries around the world. I encourage all parishes in the diocese of Peterborough to support this collection and the People and Planet First campaign by spreading its message in your communities, exploring the resources of Development and Peace, and encouraging this special fundraising effort.

Lent is a season of conversion when Christians enter into Christ’s journey to the cross. Development and Peace invites us into a conversion of solidarity, knowing that we can only be saved together. For more information, visit www.devp.org. To get involved in Development and Peace locally, contact Donna Modeste at peterboroughdp@gmail.com.

Yours in Christ,

†Most Reverend Daniel J. Miehm
Bishop of Peterborough

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