



Dear Pastor,

Every year since 1967, Catholics have generously donated to Share Lent to support the work of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace.

Every year, of course, except last year, when Covid-19 shuttered our churches the week before the Solidarity Sunday collection. Members of Development and Peace felt this as a two-edged sword: the loss of the spiritual comfort of the Easter liturgy, and the financial blow to our organization.

Share Lent is our main source of funding for our sisters and brothers in the Global South. While Catholics continued to be generous through online donations, envelopes dropped through rectory doors and the Special Collection in the fall, our revenues fell. In Hamilton diocese in 2020 Development and Peace received approximately 60% of our average Share Lent collection. The trend was similar across the county. As a result we cut in-Canada programming, laid off some staff and those remaining had their hours reduced to part-time. Our goal is to maintain our programs with our partners so the poorest of the poor are not affected.

I know that many people are suffering economic loss due to this pandemic. I don't want to minimize that. But when we compare our lives in Canada to those of people living in many other countries, we realize that we are indeed blessed.

This lent, I ask you to do a little bit extra to promote the Share Lent collection on **MARCH 20-21**, through weekly notices in your online bulletins, virtual announcements, and even in your homily. Digital material,

including Prayers of the Faithful, can be found at <https://www.devpo.org/> . If there is anything I can do to assist you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Catholics listen to their parish priest. Your words can make a difference. On behalf of our partners in 22 countries around the world, we thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Rita Bailey

Chair of the Hamilton Diocesan Council for Development and Peace

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