



## BISHOP OF HAMILTON

February 17, 2021

Very Reverend Monsignor,  
Reverend Father,  
Reverend Deacon,

Lent is upon us. The pandemic shutdown continues to affect us all – hopefully, bit by bit, to a lesser degree. The blessed relief of a vaccine is already providing protection to vulnerable populations, especially those in congregate living environments, retirement homes, and long-term care centres, and to those who are on the front lines of care. We know that it will be still longer for most of us to receive the vaccine, but we remain hopeful and vigilant, continuing to follow strictly the protocols recommended by health care professionals.

In last Friday's issue #425 of *Heart to Heart*, I outlined a few on-line/video series offered through the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, by our own Diocesan Pastoral Offices, and by other organizations. These are offered to help nourish parishioners who might be seeking resources to guide their prayer and spiritual reflection during Lent.

As well, attached is a letter to Pastors from **Rita Bailey** who is the Chair of the Hamilton Diocesan Council for Development and Peace. She provides important information for you and our parishioners about the organization and the importance of the Share Lent collection. Last year's Share Lent collection was about 60% of the previous years. Brothers and sisters in the developing world need our significant support.

The Share Lent Collection this year is on **March 20-21**. Rita provides the online contact to the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (<http://www/devp.org/>) to access materials. Please make this available to our parishioners and encourage their generous support. One dollar a day for the 40 days of Lent is a helpful suggestion.

It is my hope that our parish churches be opened throughout the season! Please be diligent in following the protocols in your Parishes. Let us pray for one another, and for the safety and good health of everyone in our Diocese.

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

*+ Douglas Crosby*, OMI

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI  
Bishop of Hamilton

Enclosure  
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