



WILLIAM T. MCGRATTAN



BISHOP *of* CALGARY

March 11, 2020
Season of Lent

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During this season of Lent, we are called to be conscious of new opportunities to grow closer to God. With this process comes opportunity to grow closer to God's people and to His Creation – our common home.

This year during Lent the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace-Caritas Canada is adding its voice to those of Pope Francis and the Caritas Internationalis organizations across the world, by inviting Canadians to reflect on the theme *For Our Common Home*; focusing on the Amazon region and the threats that mining and other extractive industries pose for its inhabitants.

On the Fifth Sunday of Lent, we celebrate Solidarity Sunday and I am making you aware of the theme, *For Our Common Home* which reminds us all that, although we are all affected by the effects of ecological imbalances, communities of vulnerable and poor people, especially those of the Global South, suffer greater effects. Development and Peace-Caritas Canada has prepared excellent liturgical and educational resources to help deepen the understanding of the issues impacting the Amazon. They can be found at www.devp.org/lent/resources. In addition, you will find within those materials, (available in your parishes as well) suggestions on actions you can take to heed the call of Pope Francis to an "ecological conversion."

In solidarity with the poor your actions are vital to the mission of Development and Peace and its ability to help promote social justice within communities in the Global South.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

† Most Reverend William T. McGrattan

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