



WILLIAM T. MCGRATTAN

BISHOP of CALGARY

March 20, 2023

*Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Lent is the season of conversion. Through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving we seek an inner transformation to deepen our relationship with God, our fellow human beings, and with all creation.

We are reminded in Isaiah (58: 6-7): "Is not this the fast I choose: to loosen the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house, when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?"

For 55 years **Development and Peace-Caritas Canada** has engaged deeply in this work of seeking justice, building relationships, and advocating for the poor and the oppressed. Although, uncomfortable at times, the prophetic nature of the work of Development and Peace challenges us to consider our own role in social, economic, and environmental inequities that harm or impact those beyond our national borders.

A new campaign cycle, **Create Hope**, will be the guiding theme for the next five years. This was inspired by Pope Francis' 2021 address to the World Meeting of Popular Movements, in which he stated, "you have the ability and the courage to create hope where there appears to be only waste and exclusion."

In this first year, the campaign's focus will be, **Create Hope: Stand for the Land**. We stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Global South who defend their homelands by protecting the land, waters, and environment that sustain not only themselves, but the planet as a whole.

Since 1967, the CCCB has set aside the **Fifth Sunday of Lent as Solidarity Sunday**, which this year, falls on March 26, 2023. I urge you to make a life-changing impact by giving generously. Contributions can be made online at [www.devp.org/donate](http://www.devp.org/donate), by mailing a cheque, by phone at 1-888-234-8533 or by using the donation envelopes available in your parish. I also encourage you to consider becoming a monthly donor through Share Year-Round at [www.devp.org/shareyearround](http://www.devp.org/shareyearround).

Let us open our hearts this Lent and heed the call of the Holy Spirit to renewal in the midst of a struggling world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*x William McGrattan*

✠ William T. McGrattan  
Bishop of Calgary

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