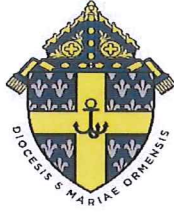


DIOCESE OF SAULT STE. MARIE



DIOCÈSE DE SAULT STE-MARIE

Prot. no.137/2022

February 17, 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

This year we approach Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent, let us remember that the liturgical season of Lent is a season of conversion. It is a time set apart for deepening our relationship with Christ and seeking inner transformation through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis calls us to a "true ecological conversion." Francis ties together the degradation of the environment with love for the poor and reminds us that the poorest nations in the world suffer the most from climate change.

Development and Peace-Caritas Canada's **Share Lent** campaign invites us to join in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Global South who are feeling the most significant impacts of the changing climate. The theme of this year's campaign is **People and Planet First**. Development and Peace is highlighting the work of their partners who, despite their challenges, are finding ways to live in harmony with their environment.

Since 1967 the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has set aside the fifth Sunday of Lent as Solidarity Sunday when each parish has a special collection. I encourage you to give generously in support of the **People and planet First campaign**. Parishioners can also make their donations to the campaign online at www.devp.org/sharelent, by mailing a cheque, or by calling 1-888-234-8533.

The Development and Peace campaign gives us a chance to live a rich Lenten experience by uniting in solidarity with impoverished and oppressed people of the world. I invite parish priests to coordinate with their D&P parish representative to use the liturgical resources provided by Development and Peace, which can be found at www.devp.org/lent, so that you can share this message of solidarity, and conversion in your parishes, schools, and communities.

This Lent, in Christ's name, I invite you to place the people and the planet at the heart of our Lenten journey.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Thomas Dowd