



Care for our

Common Home

The Catholic Women's League of Canada Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

Community Life Communiqué # 10



DATE: February 10, 2019
TO: Diocesan Chairpersons of Community Life
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Community Life (for information)

FROM: Sr. Susan Scott, Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Chairperson of Community Life

Warm greetings to each of you on yet again, another cold winter day! I want to be very clear in reminding you that the CCCB conference, including the Bishops of our Province and Territory, have continued to give their support to not only **Development and Peace** nationally, but specifically, have thrown their support behind the **2019 Lenten Campaign Share the Journey**. As an example of this support, I am including at the end of this communiqué, the letter from Archbishop Smith that accompanies the campaign that he addresses to all parishioners within his diocese.

How lucky we are to be sheltered from the cold! As we approach the sacred season of Lent, we recall those who are not so lucky – refugees who endure unspeakable threats and risks as they flee for their lives. The Development and Peace campaign for 2019 invites us to *Share the Journey* with the millions of both internally displaced people and those who have fled their homes. I invite you to BOTH use the resources I have included below, AND to consider organizing a walk within your council to Journey with these vulnerable people to either raise funds that can be sent to D & P (imagine **\$25** allows Social Action in Nigeria to train one person, providing them with skills to actively engage in imagine local natural resources, protecting the environment, defending human rights and other advocacy activities, **\$400** allows *Caritas Bangladesh* to build a shelter for a Rohingya family living in the Kutupalong refugee camp).

[Together We Serve Resources](#)

[Solidarity Calendar for SHARE THE JOURNEY 2019](#)

Solidarity Calendar Lent calls us to three actions: praying, fasting, and almsgiving. Praying We pray to grow close to God - the source of our strength and the inspiration for how we live in the world. Fasting We fast from things we enjoy. When we do this, we create space for God. Almsgiving We give alms because we are inspired by God's love for every part of His creation. We respond with charity – helping others in their need – and with justice – being transformed ourselves, in order to bring about the kingdom of God. Use this calendar to learn, think, pray and act throughout your Lenten journey!

[SHARE THE JOURNEY videos](#) There are six short video clips available to help us connect with our sisters and brothers for whom “The Journey” is not an option but a life and death choice. That works out to one for every week of Lent!

[SHARE THE JOURNEY prayer resources](#) this link will take you directly to some excellent prayers (including *Stations of the Cross, bulletin announcements, prayer card, a faith-based reflection, intercessory prayers, symbols of solidarity*, and the campaign guide. These are outstanding resources to both educate and draw us into compassion and encounter with those forced from their homes due to violence, environmental degradation, or systematic oppression.

Know that every action you take on behalf of these vulnerable people, brings a smile to God's face!

Sr. Susan Scott

Alberta Mackenzie Community Life Chair



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

2019 Lenten Campaign

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Pope Francis has invited each one of us to journey in solidarity with the 68.5 million displaced children, women, and men throughout the world. "Hope is the force that drives us to 'share the journey,' because the journey is made jointly: by those who come to our land, and by us, who go towards their heart, to understand them, to understand their culture, their language." (General Audience, September 27, 2017)

It is in this spirit that I invite you to answer his call and embark together on a journey of faith, love, and hope. Through this journey, Pope Francis asks that we see the inherent human dignity of each person in the faces of those who are forced to leave their homes through no fault of their own. We should recall the message given to us in the Letter to the Hebrews (13:1-3): "Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves are being tortured."

On May 3, 2018, during a panel at the United Nations, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, the president of Caritas Internationalis so reminded us that in --supporting migrants, we challenge our own faith. We have the opportunity to prove, through the support we offer to those who come to us, that we recognize Jesus in each one. The meeting with the other is a great journey that starts inside of us and enables us to connect with our profound humanity, to undo stereotypes, and to combat prejudice, fear of the other, racism and xenophobia.

Pope Francis described our Christian duty simply: "Before the challenges of contemporary movements of migration, the only reasonable response is one of solidarity and mercy." (Homily, July 6, 2018)

It is therefore in the name of Jesus Christ that I ask you to accept this invitation from the Church and to share the journey with Development and Peace - Caritas Canada, the official international solidarity organization of the Church in Canada. I encourage you to take part in the *Share the Journey* campaign by spreading the word in your community, actively participating in the actions proposed to you, supporting Development and Peace's partners through your gifts to *Together We Serve*, and engaging in community efforts to welcome migrants and refugees.

May the Lord bless your generosity and faithfulness. Sincerely in Christ,
Richard W. Smith Archbishop of Edmonton

8421 - 101 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T6A 0L1 • T 780 .469.1010 • F 780.465 .3003 • www.caedm.ca