

**Development and Peace — Caritas Canada
Share Lent 2024**

Reaping our rights to create hope

Have you ever heard the expression “You reap what you sow”? It’s a well-known adage rooted in several biblical stories. My parents used to say it to me, and I’ve often repeated it to my children in the hope that they’ll sow love, kindness, and generosity towards others and themselves.

But what about in real life? Can we always reap what we sow? We need only think of the challenges that climate change poses for farmers here and around the world. No matter what or how well one sows, what can one reap when there’s drought, flooding, devastating fires or armed conflict? What if one’s land is usurped for infrastructure mega-projects or agribusiness? What can one do if one’s land is no longer productive because of contamination by pesticides or mining?

These are challenges faced by people around the world, with our sisters and brothers in the Global South the hardest hit. Yet, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada’s partners and the communities they support continue to sow collaborative efforts in the hope of seeing justice, peace, solidarity and dignity germinate. That is the harvest they await. That is what *Reaping our rights* is about.

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. (Galatians 6.9)

And our partners are not giving up! Despite the obstacles, they are resilient, creative and committed. Their struggle is universal, for the rights they are fighting for are ours, too. In this Lenten time of prayer, fasting and sharing, let’s support them in **reaping our rights**: human rights; the rights of peasants; and the right to justice, to land, to food sovereignty, to a healthy environment, to health and safety, to seeds and to biodiversity. Together, let’s **create hope** for a better world.

This is the mission that Canada’s bishops have entrusted to Development and Peace — Caritas Canada: to put an end to unjust social, political, environmental and economic structures in order to build a world of justice where all can live in dignity.

On behalf of our partners and all the courageous communities we support, I invite you to please give generously to Share Lent on **Solidarity Sunday, March 17**. Your solidarity and generosity make all the difference. Your gifts, whatever their amount, help change lives for the better. Let’s sow generously so that the harvest will be abundant for those who need it most.

Happy Lent to all!

Yours in solidarity,

Carl Hétu

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