



Share the Journey

Share
Lent 2019



Development
and Peace
CARITAS CANADA

How would you feel if you and your family had to flee your home right now?

Did you know that every minute, 31 people are forced to flee their homes to seek refuge and safety in another village, city or country? There are currently more than 68.5 million children, women and men in this situation around the world. From climate change to extreme poverty and armed conflict, there are many different reasons why people flee.

This Lenten season, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada invites you to share the journey with people forced to seek refuge, and to reach out and encounter them. This calendar is designed to help you share the journey by learning, reflecting, praying, and taking action.

Together, let's walk on the path of solidarity.

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!**

Solidarity Calendar

Thank you for your generosity!

Sunday

10 1st Sunday of Lent

Lord Jesus, guide us so that we may always see You in each migrant and refugee that we encounter on our journey.

17 2nd Sunday of Lent

Lord Jesus, be with us in our commitment to build a just world and to put an end to forced migration throughout the world.

24 3rd Sunday of Lent

Lord Jesus, light the way of all those who must flee their homes so that they may reach their destination safely.

31 4th Sunday of Lent

Lord Jesus, may your light offer migrants comfort and trust in the future.

7 Solidarity Sunday

Bring the donations you've collected to church today for the Solidarity Sunday collection for Development and Peace or give online at devp.org/give. THANK YOU!

14 Palm Sunday

Lord Jesus, help us to eliminate the racism that plagues our societies, to reduce poverty and exclusion, and to promote a culture of encounter.

Monday

11

We speak of **forced migration** when people flee their homes because they fear for their safety and their lives. Did you know that every minute, 31 people are forced to flee their homes?

18

Climate change and environmental pollution are root causes of forced migration. In Nigeria, entire populations are forced to abandon their lands because of pollution caused by oil extraction.

25

A **refugee** is a person who has had to flee her or his country because of violence, war, or persecution. Did you know that close to one million Rohingyas have had to flee Burma to seek safety in Bangladesh?

April 1st

An **internally displaced** person is someone who has fled home but has not crossed the border into another country. Did you know that Colombia has the highest number of internally displaced people in the world? There are 7.7 million people there who can't live in their homes.

8

War and violence force millions of people, half of whom are children, to flee their homes every year. In Syria, one in three children of school age cannot access education.

15

Pope Francis invites us to build a **culture of encounter**. This means looking to the needs and wants of others, and taking the time to listen to them. How can we put this into action today?

Tuesday

12

Jesus taught us many things:

- Love one another
- Reconcile our differences
- Pray for those who persecute us

Choose one of Christ's teachings and put it into practice today.

19

Simple changes to our lifestyle can help reduce pollution and slow global warming. Make the commitment to change one of your habits to help protect our planet Earth and prevent forced migration.

26 Let's show our solidarity!

Encourage your family or friends to add a *Share the Journey* frame to their Facebook profile picture! Show the world that you and your family stand in solidarity with people who have been forced to flee their homes.

2

Today, listen respectfully to every person who speaks to you. Make an effort to understand their point of view and to put yourself in their shoes. By listening, you are helping to build a world of peace and justice!

9

Find out about organizations in your community that welcome and work with refugees. Call them to ask if there are any supplies they need donated or if you can volunteer for a few hours. You could also write a letter to tell them how important their work is.

16

Who could you meet today? Make the first step toward meeting someone new by approaching a person you normally wouldn't. Put the culture of encounter into practice to help create a better world.

Wednesday

March 6th

Ash Wednesday

This Lenten season share the journey with the 68.5 million children, women, and men who have been forced to flee their homes.

13

The social teachings of the Church are based on the principle of human dignity. Too often forced migrants are denied their dignity. Today, please pray that all children and adults that have been forced to flee their homes may live in dignity.

20

We live in an interconnected world. The pollution from industrialized countries like Canada impacts people in the Global South. Pray for those who suffer the consequences of our pollution.

27

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh live in precarious conditions and cannot work or study. Today, pray that they may live in dignity, peace, and security.

3

In Colombia, palm oil and banana plantations are pushing Indigenous communities off their traditional lands. Today, pray especially for these communities.

10

Today, pray for all the children, women, and men afflicted by war. May they never lose hope of one day seeing their country free from violence.

17

Do you know the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)? Read this parable today and reflect on the links between it and a culture of encounter. Pray that the Lord may give us the wisdom to work and advocate for solidarity.

Thursday

7

Watch our short animated video on forced migration. Afterward, take a few minutes to imagine that you had to flee your home right now. What would you do?

14

Solidarity is a key principle of the social teachings of the Church. This year, Canadians are walking in solidarity with forced migrants. Our objective is to walk 40,075 km, *i.e.* the total circumference of the Earth. Let's walk together!

21

Climate change can easily become a source of conflict, as is the case in Nigeria. See how our planet Earth is threatened by fossil fuels with CJ the Bee.

28

Meet Shominara, an 11-year-old Rohingya refugee. Learn more about her daily life in the Kutupalong refugee camp in Bangladesh, the biggest refugee camp in the world.

4 Refugee Rights Day

For millions of people around the world, peace is only a dream. Listen to what Pope Francis has to say about peace and take a few moments to think about how we can build a world of peace.

11

Meet Rami, a 14-year-old Jordanian boy, and learn more about his daily life in his country.

18 Holy Thursday

Tonight, watch this short video of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network with your family. Then, break bread with your family and your community, while making sure to put your phones away. Make this quality time an opportunity for encounter.

Friday

8 International Women's Day

Female migrants and refugees face particular challenges, including exploitation, abuse, discrimination and violence. What challenges are faced by women and girls in your community?

15

The Church teaches that we have human dignity given to us by God. What does that mean to you? Discuss this question with your family at dinner.

22 World Water Day

Lake Chad, one of the biggest freshwater reservoirs in the world, has shrunk by 90% since 1960, due in large part to climate change. Discuss with your family a way to reduce water waste and put it into action.

29

Do you sometimes hear negative comments about migrants or refugees in your community? What are they? Are they based on fact? Help shatter myths about migration by sharing one of our short videos on social media.

5

When everyone is free to express his or her opinion and can take part in decision-making processes, we promote peace and stability. This can help end forced displacement! What actions can you take to promote peace in your community?

12

If you had to flee your home right now, what would you take with you? Who would you call before leaving? Take a few minutes to think about these questions and save a special thought for all the children who face this situation.

19 Good Friday

As we walk with Christ to Calvary today, let us carry in our hearts all those we encountered on our Lenten journey. Let us hold in our hearts and prayers our sisters and brothers forced to flee their homes.

Saturday

9

When people flee their homes, they must leave almost everything behind. Take a look at all the things you own. How many pairs of pants do you have? For each of them, give 25¢. Be grateful for what you have!

16 Get out your baking pans!

With family and friends, organize a small fundraising activity. Make muffins and sell them for \$1 each. Explain to people why you are supporting Development and Peace. Thank you!

23

Give \$2 to support Development and Peace partners, such as Social Action in Nigeria, who are working on the root causes of forced migration and providing displaced populations with solidarity and support to defend their rights.

30

Did you know that Development and Peace works with partners in six countries in Asia? Go online to find out which countries these are and give 50¢ for each of them.

6

Did you know that our Colombian partner, NAC, works with Indigenous women so that they can take part in decisions that concern them? Give \$2 to support initiatives that promote citizen participation.

13

Do you have too many toys? For your next birthday, ask for money instead of toys so that you can donate some towards helping our sisters and brothers in the Global South.

20 Holy Saturday

Let us pray with the words Jesus taught us: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Ask your parents if they would like to become monthly donors to support bringing the kingdom of God to Earth.

PREPARE YOURSELVES!

Follow our Solidarity Calendar on Facebook and Instagram! Go to devp.org/lentcalendar for more information.



Place our Solidarity Jar sticker on a recycled container and use it to collect donations throughout Lent! Bring your offerings to Mass on the Fifth Sunday of Lent

for the Solidarity Sunday collection for Development and Peace, or go online at devp.org/give to donate the money you collected.



When you see this pictogram, go online at devp.org/lentcalendar! Ask an adult if you need help with the subtitles!

For teachers using this calendar, tell your students about the weekend actions on Friday so they know what to do at home.

Learn

Think

Pray

Act

Sunday, April 21st Happy Easter!

Alleluia, Alleluia!
Lord Jesus as we celebrate your rising, may we be a joyful Easter People, who help you usher in a kingdom where all may live the abundance of life.

Meet Shominara

Age:
11 years old

Country of origin:
Burma

Currently lives:
**in Kutupalong
refugee camp in Bangladesh**



"My name is Shominara, I'm 11 years old and I have two sisters and one brother. We come from Rakhine State, in Burma.

It took us four to five days to get here [to Bangladesh] from Burma. We brought some snacks with us for the road, and that's what we ate for several days. At night, we hid in the forest. We drank a bit of water when we were thirsty if we found some in the forest.

We feel good here because we're safe. I can participate in activities, study, and do what I want. Later, I would like to be a teacher and help my students learn new things. When I finish my studies, I want to work. I would also like to be a doctor."

Who are the Rohingyas?

The Rohingyas are an ethnic group (a group of people sharing the same culture, religion and language) from Burma, a small country in Asia. Their ancestors settled in Burma about two centuries ago. There are about 135 different ethnic groups in Burma. Most are Buddhists, but some are Christians or Muslims, like the Rohingya.

Why do they have to flee Burma?

The Rohingyas have long been victims of violence, persecution, and discrimination in Burma, and have limited access to state education and health care. Since 1982, they have also been forbidden from having Burmese nationality even if they have lived in Burma for generations.

In August 2017, a conflict arose between the Burmese army and a Rohingya group, and this led to entire Rohingya villages being burned down. To survive, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have had to flee their country to seek refuge in neighbouring Bangladesh.

Where do they live now?

The vast majority of Rohingya refugees are now living in refugee camps in Bangladesh. Kutupalong camp, where Shominara lives, is home to more than 621,000 Rohingya refugees, and is the largest refugee camp in the world. At this camp, 55% of people are children.

FAMILY PRAYER FOR LENT

God of mercy,
With every step we make today,
We pray your love will fill our hearts and move us deeply.
Open our eyes to see the face of Christ
in all we meet along the way.
Amen.

Source: CAFOD

