

So you want to be a Development and Peace Parish Representative...

Who is Development and Peace?

Development and Peace is the **official Humanitarian Aid and International Development Organization of the Catholic Church in Canada**, and the **Canadian member of *Caritas Internationalis*** – the official aid and development arm of the Catholic Church, headquartered in the Vatican. **We were formed in 1967 by the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops**, with the mandate to *support partners in the Global South who promote alternatives to unfair social, political and economic structures, and educate the Canadian population about the causes of poverty and mobilize Canadians toward actions for change*. We educate Canadians through two major campaigns every year:

1. **Fall Education and Action Campaign:** Each September, Development and Peace launches a new Campaign to educate Canadians about a particular issue associated with the root causes of poverty and injustice in the Global South, and to mobilize people to take concrete action against injustices within this theme. Our most recent campaigns have focused on Climate Change, Small Scale Farming, and Mining Injustices. In the 1980s, our campaign against apartheid in South Africa mobilized Canadians to push our government to ban trading with the apartheid regime.
2. **Share Lent Campaign:** Our main annual fundraising campaign, Development and Peace's Share Lent Campaign presents an opportunity for Catholics, in the spirit of the Lenten Season, to reflect and renew their commitments to contributing to a just world. Each Share Lent Campaign highlights the work of our partners all over the world, and tells their stories to emphasize that any and all support of Development and Peace has an extremely positive effect on the lives of our brothers and sisters in the Global South. The highlight of the Share Lent Campaign is Solidarity Sunday (the 5th Sunday of Lent), during which special collections are taken up in Parishes all across Canada for Development and Peace.

What is a Parish Rep?

A Parish Rep is responsible for promoting and encouraging fellow parishioners to participate in Development and Peace's two annual Campaigns in their parish. Parish Reps help their fellow parishioners to use their Catholic faith as the lens through which they learn about and work toward Social and Environmental Justice in the world. This truly enriching opportunity will help you to enrich your own faith, and to participate in meaningful actions that protect and promote God's Kingdom here on Earth.

Duties:

- Receive by mail two Materials Kits each year (in January for our Share Lent Campaigns, and in August for our Fall Education and Action Campaigns), which contain all of the educational and promotional materials associated with the upcoming Share Lent or Fall Education and Action Campaign. Familiarize yourself with these materials!

- Ensure that the materials in the kits are ordered in larger amounts for your parish, to circulate among parishioners.
- Encourage your fellow parishioners to take and read these materials (either by handing them out yourself or with a team, or setting up a Development and Peace display table for people to peruse at their leisure).
- Help to promote Solidarity Sunday (the 5th Sunday of Lent) in your parish.
- Discuss Development and Peace's programs and news with your parish priest and fellow parishioners. This can be done by organizing an event (e.g. presentation, fundraising drive) to promote each campaign, presenting the campaign during or after Mass (with your Parish Priest's permission), or simply by chatting informally with your fellow parishioners.
- Receive and circulate the Monthly Atlantic Regional Newsletter.

Time Commitment:

- Attend two formation workshops each year in your community, run by the Antigonish Diocesan Council:
 - o In the fall for the Fall Education and Action Campaign
 - o In January/February for the Share Lent Campaign.
- The amount and nature of your time promoting D&P's campaigns within your parish is completely self-determined. Parish Reps are encouraged to dedicate as much time as their schedule allows to carry out their Parish Rep duties.

How will you be supported?

The Antigonish Diocesan Council, the Regional Animator, and the Regional Administrative Assistant will ensure that you are well prepared and informed to carry out each campaign and to speak authoritatively on the themes of each campaign. These individuals are available throughout the year to answer any questions that arise about the campaigns or the general work of Development and Peace. These individuals may also be contacted at any time to provide other support to your Parish Rep work (such as making presentations, helping to run events, promoting events, etc.).

You are also encouraged to work closely with your Parish Priest, Parish Administrator, and Parish Council to ensure successful and respectful campaigns year after year.

Benefits:

As a Parish Rep you will:

- Have significant and meaningful impact on communities and individuals all around the world!
- Be part of a democratic movement that has achieved and continues to achieve Social and Ecological Justice for our brothers and sisters all around the world!
- Actively participate in parish life and in your parish community!
- Grow in your faith by putting the Catholic Social Teachings of the Church into practice!