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March 13, 2020 – 2nd Week of Lent

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The theme of this year's Share Lent campaign is *For Our Common Home*. This campaign, inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* and the 2019 Pan-Amazonian Synod of Bishops, tells us that the Earth is our common home and that we need to care for it. The protection of the natural environment is a fundamental vocation of humanity founded in Sacred Scripture and the Church's magisterial teaching.

In this campaign *For Our Common Home*, Development and Peace amplifies Pope Francis' message that today, our relationship with God's creation is wounded and that our common planetary home is falling into ruin due to human destruction. Pope Francis calls this rupture of the relationship between humankind and God's creation "ecological sin." The destruction of our common planetary home is a sin against God, humanity, and the world.

The campaign *For Our Common Home* reminds all of us that, although we are all affected by effects of ecological imbalances, communities of vulnerable and poor people suffer greater effects. As Pope Francis stresses, "the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming, and their means of subsistence are largely dependent on natural reserves and ecosystemic services such as agriculture, fishing, and forestry. They have no other financial activities or resources which can enable them to adapt to climate change or to face natural disasters, and their access to social services and protection is very limited."

This Lent, we can support the *For Our Common Home* campaign by holding in our hearts and prayers for impoverished brothers and sisters in the global south: the Seringueiros, Mura, and other Amazonian vulnerable communities who suffer threats to their livelihoods due to ecological sin. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops designates the Fifth Sunday of Lent as Solidarity Sunday when our annual Share Lent collection will be taken up. On that Sunday, March 29th, I ask you to please be generous in donating to Development and Peace so that the courage of those who defend *Our Common Home* is strengthened by our solidarity with them.

Blessings to you, sincerely,

✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen
Bishop of Saskatoon