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March 9, 2021
Third Week of Lent

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The theme of this year's Share Lent campaign is *Share Love, Share Lent* which is inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* released last fall. Although the Holy Father began work on this encyclical before the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the current circumstances that our world faces because of the pandemic has rendered the message of *Fratelli Tutti* all the more prophetic and urgent.

Perhaps more than ever – in this environment of crisis, fear, and social separation – we need to hear the call of Christ and His Gospel to realize the meaning of being the People of God – of being brothers and sisters together.


This Lent, we can support the *Share Love, Share Lent* campaign by holding in our hearts and prayers those persons both locally and around the world who are on the peripheries of our communities because of poverty, conflict and war, separation from their homelands, ill-health, and many other circumstances all the more magnified because of the pandemic.

A time of crisis on this scale in the world is especially a time when we need to be vigilant about the temptation to allow fear to fuel other 'sins', including prejudice and racism; unhealthy competition for limited resources, and a lack of caring and 'heart' for the brother and sister who is beyond our gaze and concern.

During this Lent, let us support the *Share Love, Share Lent* campaign by a special and renewed commitment to *have the same mind and heart as Christ Jesus* – who holds in His sacred heart all our struggling and impoverished brothers and sisters. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops again designates the 5th Sunday of Lent as Solidarity Sunday when our annual Share Lent collection will be taken up. On Sunday, March 21st, I ask you to please be generous in donating to Development and Peace.

Blessings to you, sincerely,

✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen

 In all things we are *rooted in Christ*,
in His desire to bring God's love to all peoples.