

Solidarity

Way of the Cross



In this Solidarity Way of the Cross, we meet people from around the world who work hard to provide enough food for their families. Like Jesus, they suffer many injustices along the way. They invite us to reflect on how our lives are linked with theirs, and how we can show solidarity with them in their struggle to live with dignity.



CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR

**Development
and Peace**

1 888 234-8533 devp.org



1st Station

Jesus is condemned to death.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

In a world that produces enough food for every woman, man and child to eat a daily balanced diet, almost one billion people do not have enough food to lead healthy and productive lives. Most live in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East, the countries where DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE has programs.

Food sovereignty, the ability of countries to define their own food policies and food system, would help reduce hunger. "Food sovereignty means that we can produce our own food by ourselves, with our own techniques and with our own means, so we can manage to feed ourselves," says Guerlande Agella from DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE's partner organization Fam Deside (Fam Day-see-day) in Haiti.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, as we set out with you on your journey to Calvary, may we open our hearts to all those who walk that journey today. Give us the grace to understand how our lives are linked with theirs.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.



2nd Station

Jesus takes up his cross.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

In the Global South people have to start over each time a natural disaster such as a typhoon, a flood or a drought destroys their livelihoods.

When Typhoon Haiyan, the biggest typhoon on record, hit the Philippines in November 2013, parishes across Canada opened their hearts. Thanks to their generosity, Caritas Philippines-NASSA was ready to help fishing families whose homes and fishing boats had been destroyed. Fishers received new fishing boats to make a living so that they can rebuild their lives, and they are in turn giving back a portion of their catch to their community to help others. Fisher Rodel Doble says, "It is such a blessing from God to have my own boat. What I give of my catch is so small compared to what we have been given."

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, you accepted your cross upon your back. Help us accept our responsibility to assist people affected by natural disasters.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.



3rd Station

Jesus falls for the first time.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

In Colombia, poor communities have been forced off their land so that African oil palm can be grown as agrofuel to power vehicles in North America and Europe. In Colombia, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE partner Justice and Peace (Justicia y Paz) helps

such communities return to their lands. "African oil palm kills biodiversity and destroys the soul of the land," says Benjamin, a member of one of the communities. "That is why we resist peacefully."

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, you fell under the weight of the cross and rose again to continue your journey. We remember parishes across Canada who help people in communities like Benjamin's to rise up and claim their right to live in dignity.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.



Jesus meets his mother.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

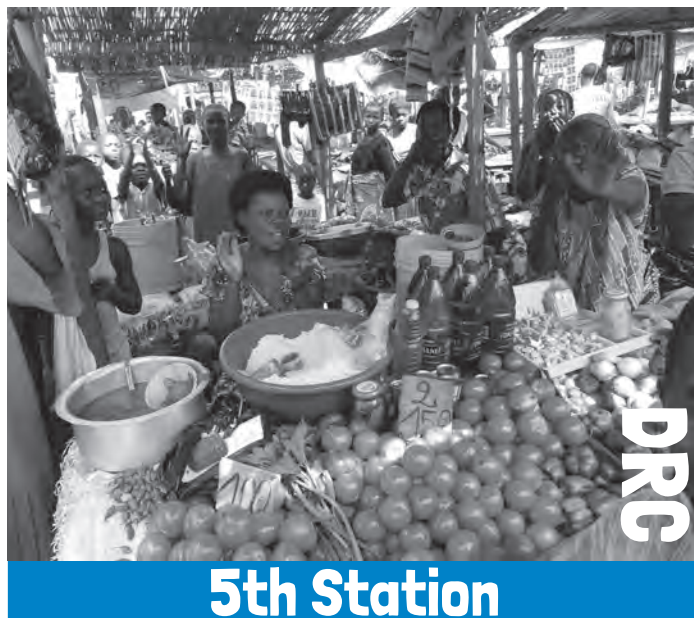
Reader:

Poor mothers in developing countries often have to watch helplessly as their children die from hunger and preventable diseases. About 30,000 children will die today because of poverty.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, Mary's pain leads us to a deeper understanding of your humanity. May the cries of hungry children and the grief of their mothers open our hearts to respond with generosity and compassion. Whatever we do to the least of these, we do to you.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.



Simon helps carry his cross.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

The weight of unfair trade weighs heavily on many poor countries, denying them the opportunity to sell their goods, including agricultural products, for a fair price. Blessed Pope Paul VI said that when we give aid to poor countries while we deny them opportunities to trade, we are giving with one hand and taking with the other.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, when the weight of your cross became too heavy to bear, Simon came to your help. May the Church continue to speak out about the structures of injustice which create and sustain poverty.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.



6th Station

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

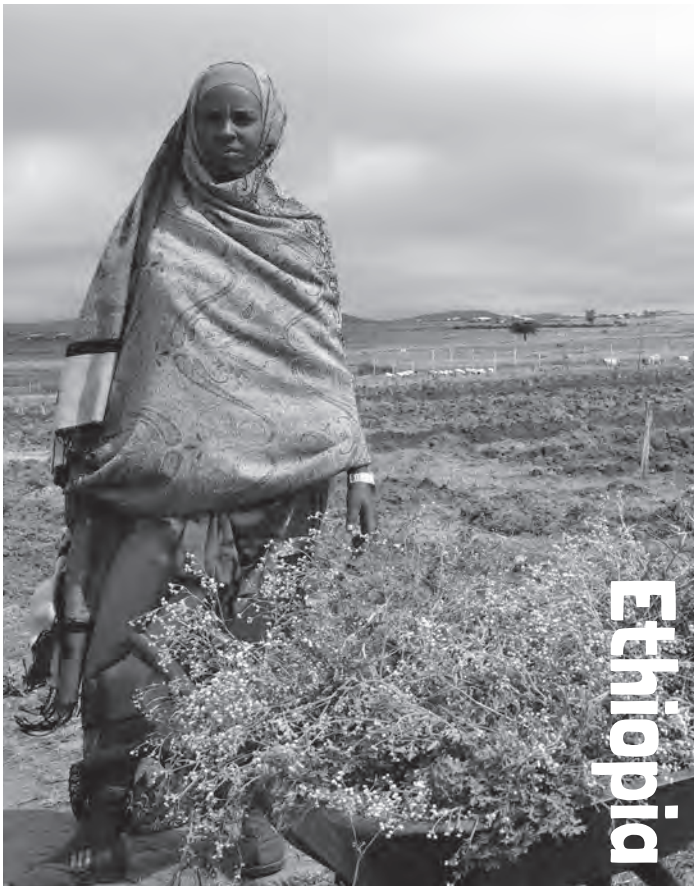
Reader:

Small acts of love can touch the lives of many people. In Brazil, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE partner The Movement of Small Farmers (MPA) founded seed fairs and seed banks. Women farmers carefully harvest seeds from their vegetable gardens, and share them at a seed fair so that others will have enough for the next planting. This ensures that they don't have to go into debt to buy seeds from a large corporation, and preserves the biodiversity of their food supply.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, Veronica reached out in love to ease your suffering. May we follow her example, and the example of people and parishes in Canada, who help these small-scale farmers in Brazil help themselves.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.



7th Station

Jesus falls for the second time.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

Hunger brings people to their knees. Almost one billion people will go to bed hungry tonight. In Ethiopia, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE supports a Caritas Harar project which gives women farmers the training and tools that they need to grow crops on their drought-prone land. This project helped these farming families recover from the last famine. Now they have what they need to avoid famine during the next drought.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, the courage and resilience of the women in the Harar region of Ethiopia challenge us to ask why so many people are hungry in our world of plenty. May they inspire us to support DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE campaigns for an end to poverty and injustice.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.

8th Station

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

Like women around the world, poor women in developing countries want to give their children a better start in life than they had. In Sierra Leone, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE partner Network Movement for Justice and Development has helped women, families and communities in the Kakua region increase the number of acres they farm. Their crops have improved and they can feed their families.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, we are moved by the compassion of the women who mourned for you. We pray for DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE partners in developing countries, who, in our name, give practical support to the neediest people.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.



9th Station

Jesus falls for the third time.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

The Ebola virus has decimated communities in West Africa over the last year. Sierra Leone, which is one of the poorest countries in the world, is still recovering from a decades-long civil war. The health system is overwhelmed, which increases the risk of infection. Health care workers are exceptionally brave, but they are also, unfortunately, among the disease's victims. DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE supports Caritas Sierra Leone in fighting the Ebola epidemic to help prevent the spread of the disease.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, as we fall, so may we rise to a greater awareness of your love for all humanity. We thank God for all those who show bravery and love for those affected by Ebola.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.



10th Station

Jesus is stripped of his garments.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

In Zambia, women traditionally had to relinquish their small plots of land to their husbands' family upon his death. The widows and their children would lose their land and be left with nothing. Due to the work of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE partner Zambia Land Alliance, that no longer happens.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, as you were stripped of your garments, there was no compassion shown to you, only the greed of those who took your clothes. May you be with all widows who lose their land and livelihood on the death of their husbands.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.



11th Station

Jesus is nailed to the cross.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

In Cambodia, Nop Ponleu lives with his parents, his two sisters, his grandmother and his aunt in a little house made of wood and tin. They are one of many families who have benefitted from workshops on how to grow organic rice offered by Development and Partnership in Action (DPA). Little by little, life is improving for this family and for others in the village.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, like many of those trapped by poverty, you were nailed to a cross of pain. We remember all the young people across Canada who show solidarity with children like Nop Ponleu and see their gift grow through DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.



Peru

12th Station

Jesus dies on the cross.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

We see the face of Jesus in the suffering and death of all those who die of hunger; in the lives of those who work tirelessly for justice; and in the compassion of all the individuals, schools and parishes across Canada who reach out through DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE to support the world's poorest people.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, through your death you have given us hope of eternal life. May you be with all who die today, especially those who die in poverty and isolation.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.

13th Station

Jesus is taken down from the cross.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

In Peru, the Mantaro River has been contaminated by years of mining activities along its shores. The heavy metals in the river leach into the corn, potatoes and other crops, and into the milk from the cows. The community dreams of bringing this river back to life, and they are working tirelessly to defend their land, air, and water.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, as you were taken lovingly from the cross, may we always treat all people and all of Creation as signs of God's presence.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.

14th Station

Jesus is placed in the tomb.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

Pope Francis said, "We are in front of a global scandal of around one billion – one billion people who still suffer from hunger today. We cannot look the other way and pretend this does not exist."

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, as you were laid in the tomb, may we see the signs and reality of your presence in the wonder of Creation. May it inspire us to support DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE's campaign to sow seeds of love so that we can end global hunger.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.

Closing Prayer

Loving Jesus, as we followed this Solidarity Way of the Cross, we recalled your suffering and passion as you journeyed to your death, and the suffering and passion of those who experience poverty and injustice in our world each day. Your cross has become for us the symbol of hope and compassion; your resurrection brings the promise of a new and eternal life.

May we be a sign of hope and compassion in the way we live our lives and in the care we show for others and all Creation.

Amen



Sow Much Love TO GIVE

Niger



This Solidarity Way of the Cross was adapted from SCIAF's (the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund) 2009 Lenten Way of the Cross.



CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR
Development and Peace

1425 René-Lévesque Blvd. W., 3rd floor,
Montreal QC H3G 1T7

1 888 234-8533
devp.org

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