Solidarity Calendar

This Lent, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada is focusing on *Women at the Heart of Change*. Women are central actors in creating positive change in their communities, yet they often face difficulties because they are not treated equally. In many parts of the world, women have less access to work and girls have a hard time continuing their education beyond primary school. Women and girls are also more likely to be victims of violence, hunger and displacement. Join us as we learn about the challenges women face around the world, and meet amazing women who are overcoming these challenges in incredible ways. Learn, Pray and Act in solidarity with women throughout Lent!

→ LENT CALLS US TO THREE THINGS: 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 that distract us from God, and return our attention to positive priorities.

**Almsgiving:** We give alms because we are inspired by God’s love of each of His creations. We respond with charity (helping others in their need) and justice (being transformed ourselves, in order to transform the world into the Kingdom of God).

USE THIS CALENDAR TO LEARN, PRAY AND ACT THROUGHOUT YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY!
2017 Solidarity Calendar
Thank you for your generosity!

Sunday

5 Watch the video of Pope Francis’ prayer intentions for May 2016 and learn what His Holiness has to say about the role of women in today’s world.

Monday

6 Be a positive leader! If you are a girl, speak up about something that is important to you or encourage a girl in your life to do so.

7 Did you know that in Paraguay, farming is traditionally reserved for men? Development and Peace works with organizations like Decidamos, who support Indigenous women farmers.

8 International Women’s Day
Send a picture of an inspiring woman in your life to us at devp.org/insp-women. Tell us who she is and why she inspires you.

9 Pray for women around the world who cultivate land to feed their families and their communities.

Tuesday

10 Liz Benítez, a 13-year-old Paraguayan girl, had to abandon school after her family was evicted from their land. Learn about her dreams at devp.org/testimonials/liz.

11 Donate $2 to support organizations in Paraguay like Decidamos and AMUCAP. They help women support each other and work for equality.

12 Be inspired by women around the world who participate in community life. Visit someone after mass, bring a neighbour a pie or spend time with a friend.

Wednesday

13 Watch a video about Indonesian women bloggers, including Rasya, a courageous 22-year-old blind woman who empowers girls and women through her blog!

14 Donate $2 to support Development and Peace partners who help girls and women around the world to have their voices heard.

15 Watch Development and Peace’s video A Day in the Life of 11-year-old Jonalyn in the Philippines. How is your life similar to or different from Jonalyn’s?

16 Look for places in your community where women lead projects for the common good. Thank them for their important work.

Thursday

17 Pray for women who use their talents and strengths for their families and their communities.

18 Help prepare a special dinner for your mom tonight, or invite an important woman in your life to be your guest.

19 Pray for the many girls and women struggling to change laws and customs that keep women struggling to change in today’s world.

20 Check-in! Have you kept your commitment? What have you learned about women’s rights and the situation of women and girls around the world?

21 Did you know that in Sub-Saharan Africa, women and girls spend 40 billion hours a year collecting water for their families’ needs? Imagine your day’s schedule if you spent hours a day fetching water.

22 World Water Day
Give 25¢ for every water tap you used today (at home, school or work).

23 In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, half of girls aged 15 to 24 are illiterate, and only 1 in 3 will attend secondary school. Pray for girls who struggle to attend school, and speak out for girls’ education.

24 Tell a friend about Sandra’s story (on the back page) and let her/him know about community radio in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its impact on women.

25 Donate $2 to support community radio networks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which enable women to communicate, become educated and be involved.

26 Jesus, may you open our hearts to the wisdom and love of the women who bring light into our lives and our families.

27 Read Hanan’s story at devp.org/insp-women/hanan and see how this strong Syrian woman is working to help her sisters in need through Assous, an organization she co-founded.

28 Give $2 to support Syrian organizations like Assous and the Daruna Centres, which help women gain confidence and become self-sufficient.

29 Did you know that every two years, 8 Syrian children are forced to flee their homes? Today, pray especially for Syrian children.

30 Write a letter to a woman who has inspired you. Let her know what her example has meant to you.

31 Hear what Samira, an 8-year-old Syrian girl, has to say about the conflict in her country and what she hopes for.

Friday

32 Share Lent 2017
Devp.org/insp-women
and let her/him know about community radio in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its impact on women.

33 As you cook your Easter meal today, invite your family to do so.

34 Visit the development and peace website of Sport for Development and Peace’s video A Day in the Life of 11-year-old Jonalyn in the Philippines. How is your life similar to or different from Jonalyn’s?

35 Write a letter to a woman who has inspired you. Let her know what her example has meant to you.

36 Celebrate Easter in solidarity with women cocoa farmers by choosing fair trade chocolate options at your local grocery store.

40 Millenium Development Goals
Overview of the Millennium Development Goals

41 Let us pray that women and girls whose voices are unheard and to those who work with them to have their stories heard.

Saturday

42 Ask a friend or a family member about his or her female role model, and share yours!

43 Dedicate your fasting today to the world who cultivate land to feed their families and their communities.

44 Pray for the many women and girls around the world who aren’t able to chase their dreams because of war.

45 Celebrate Easter in solidarity with women cocoa farmers by choosing fair trade chocolate options at your local grocery store.

46 At the dinner table, share 5 things you have learned this Lent. Start a conversation about how our world would be different if girls and boys were truly equal.

GET READY!
Decorate a recycled container to use as a donation jar throughout Lent! Bring your offerings into your parish for the Solidarity Sunday collection, or go online at devp.org/give to donate the amount to Development and Peace.

Use this Calendar to

Act

Learn

Pray

Sunday, April 16th
Easter!
Happy Easter! Celebrate Easter Octave (the 8 days of Easter) with family and friends, especially Saturday, April 22nd – International Mother Earth Day.
QUIZ

Try out our quiz! Look these topics up online and explore the issue of women in development. Then, talk about it with your family and friends.

1. According to the World Food Program, what percentage of countries have an equal number of girls and boys in secondary school?
   a) 19%  
   b) 39%  
   c) 59%  
   d) 79%

2. According to UNESCO, if all women had a secondary education, child deaths would be reduced by how much?
   a) 10%  
   b) 25%  
   c) 40%  
   d) 50%

3. According to the FAO, giving women the same access as men to agricultural resources could increase production on women’s farms in developing countries by how much?
   a) 5-10%  
   b) 10-20%  
   c) 20-30%  
   d) 30-40%

4. When did Canadian women gain the right to vote in federal elections?
   This is a tough one! While some women were allowed to vote in federal elections as early as 1917, many women were excluded because of ethnicity. Indigenous women were not able to vote without losing their status and Indigenous rights until 1960. Inuit women, who received the right to vote in 1950, were not actually included in federal elections until ballot boxes were provided in 1962.

Answers
   1) b  2) d  3) c

Lenten Family Prayer

Lord, thank you for calling us on this Lenten journey. Help us to grow close to You, to give up those things which are unnecessary, to learn to listen to You, to help others and to simplify our lives. Walk with us as we prepare for Easter. Amen.

Share Lent 2017

Development and Peace

1425 René-Lévesque Blvd West, 3rd Floor
Montreal, Quebec Canada, H3G 1T7
1 888 234-8533 | devp.org