



Development and Peace Solidarity Sunday

On April 6th, Sisters, Associates and staff of the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception in Saint John, NB, gathered in Carmel Chapel to observe Development and Peace-Caritas Canada Solidarity Sunday, the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. This year Pope Francis has declared 2025 the Year of the Jubilee, calling on us to be "Pilgrims of Hope." In the Jubilee campaign of 2000, he asked us to "forgive the debts of countries that will never be able to repay them". Once again, we are urged to **Turn Debt into Hope** by acting against the root causes of poverty, inequality and oppression.

The **Symbols of Solidarity** were presented during the Sunday liturgy. The 1st symbol, a walking stick, symbolizes the pilgrimage to which we are invited this year. The 2nd symbol, a clipboard and pencil, represents our power to act to lessen the debt burden of impoverished countries by signing the **Turn Debt into Hope** global campaign petition. The 3rd symbol, a weighing scale, shows that countries in the Global South are overwhelmed with debt and the ecological debt owed to them goes unacknowledged.

The 4th symbol, a heavy dollar sign, represents the weight of debt on the shoulders of our sisters and brothers in the Global South.

"If we really wish to prepare a path to peace in our world, let us commit ourselves to remedying the remote causes of injustice, settling unjust and unpayable debts, and feeding the hungry." (Spes non confundit, \$16).



(left to right~ Associate Barbara Fennell, Sisters Muriel Buckley, Audette Richard, Monica Guest) [photo~ Pat Poole, scic}