



## DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

February 23, 2026

To the Faithful of the Diocese of Hamilton

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The season of Lent presents to us the privileged paths of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, inviting us to strip away all that holds us back from a deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Prayer connects us with the very Author of life, while fasting sharpens our attention to those things which truly nourish our spirit. Almsgiving, in turn, is an essential expression of our Lenten journey, allowing us to put our faith into action by serving the Lord through those whom He holds so dearly: the poor and the disadvantaged.

Giving to those in need not only helps to transform their lives—a worthy pursuit in itself—but it transforms our own hearts and lives as well. Serving Christ in His poor configures us more closely to the Lord and draws us nearer to the Kingdom He proclaimed during His public ministry. In *Dilexi te*, Pope Leo XIV's recent Apostolic Exhortation, our Holy Father reminds us: "*I am convinced that the preferential choice for the poor is a source of extraordinary renewal both for the Church and for society, if we can only set ourselves free of our self-centeredness and open our ears to their cry.*"

On Sunday, March 22, 2026, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, our parishes will invite support for Development and Peace – Caritas Canada through the Solidarity Sunday Collection. This year's Share Lent campaign, *On Track for Justice*, is an important expression of solidarity with Catholics across Canada and with our brothers and sisters throughout the world who rely on these vital humanitarian initiatives. I am deeply grateful for your generous support in past years and for the many ways you continue to advance works of justice and compassion.

This collection takes place during the Jubilee Year of Saint Francis of Assisi, proclaimed by the Holy Father to mark 800 years since the saint's passing to eternal life. The life of Saint Francis bears enduring witness to the inseparable bond between Christ and the poor, reminding us that self-giving love for Christ bears abundant evangelical fruit in every generation. May his example inspire us to respond generously to those in need this Solidarity Sunday.

As we journey through Lent, let us recall the words of the prophet Micah and embrace anew what the Lord asks of us: "*to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God*" (Micah 6:8). With gratitude and prayerful best wishes for a blessed and fruitful Lenten journey, I remain

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

*+Joseph Dabrowski*

Most Reverend Joseph Dabrowski, CSMA  
Bishop of Hamilton

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