



# Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Office of the Archbishop

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace was established by the Bishops of Canada in 1967. It was established as part of the missionary outreach of the Roman Catholic Church in Canada to foster justice and integral human development in Third World Countries. For many years the Archdiocese of Winnipeg has supported the work of Development and Peace both spiritually and financially. The fall educational initiative and the Share Lent Collection are two familiar ways by which our support has been evident.

The mandate of Development and Peace is fulfilled through cooperation with local partner organizations in developing countries where concrete projects are initiated among the poor. Globally D & P currently has over one hundred such partners. The Bishops of Canada have been made aware of a recent appraisal of such partners and have become concerned that a sizable number of them have practices and positions which conflict with Catholic moral and social teachings, such as respect for the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.

As a result of this current review of Development and Peace partnerships, the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, along with the other dioceses of Western Canada, is temporarily withholding the 2018 Share Lent donations. These funds are being withheld until such a time as we receive assurance from Development and Peace that its partner agencies comply with Catholic moral and social teaching and with the criteria of *Caritas Internationalis* (of which Development and Peace is a member).

It should be noted that normally our collection is not sent into Development and Peace until August. This space of time should give ample opportunity for Development and Peace to make the required reforms. It is very important that the concerns surrounding the recent review of D & P partners are attended to promptly.

I must express my gratitude to the many volunteers and participants who are part of Development and Peace in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg. There has always been a very generous and whole hearted response to the work of Development and Peace in Manitoba and I can assure you that the monies so far collected, will be completely reserved for projects in the developing world. The temporary withholding of funds underscores the seriousness of the Bishops' concerns and the need for open transparency and accountability. If this is successfully achieved, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada will be strengthened and blessed in their important work.

I wish to bring you greetings and prayers during this holy Season of Easter!

Yours in Christ,

✠Richard Gagnon  
Archbishop of Winnipeg