



Archdiocese of Vancouver
ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE

St. Stanislaus
April 11, 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In 1967 the Bishops of Canada established the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development of Peace to foster justice and integral human development in the developing world. For many years the Archdiocese of Vancouver has been a strong supporter of Development and Peace through our annual Share Lent Campaign and Fall educational initiatives.

Development and Peace fulfills its mandate in collaboration with more than one hundred partner agencies, contracting with them to carry out specific projects aimed at improving the lives of our sisters and brothers in developing countries. Recently, serious allegations have been made against a number of these partner agencies; namely, that they condone and even at times advocate policies and practices which contradict Catholic teaching and, in particular, that they do not fully respect the sanctity of human life from conception to its natural end.

For this reason, the Archdiocese of Vancouver, together with the other Dioceses of Western Canada, is temporarily withholding the 2018 Share Lent donations from Development and Peace. These funds are being withheld until such time as we receive clear assurance that its partner agencies comply with Catholic teaching and with the criteria set out by *Caritas Internationalis*, of which the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace is the Canadian representative.

I assure you that the funds designated for Development and Peace will only be used to assist people in need in the developing world.

It is important to recognize with sincere gratitude and admiration that there are many people in the Archdiocese who give of themselves generously, wholeheartedly and graciously in support of the good work of Development and Peace, whether by their donations or by assisting in the organization's educational and advocacy initiatives. The temporary withholding of funds is an action taken to ensure transparency and accountability in how monies are used.

With cordial greetings and the assurance of my prayers for you and your families during this Easter Season, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠ J. Michael Miller, CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver

4885 Saint John Paul II Way | Vancouver, BC | V5Z 0G3
Telephone: 604 443-3203 | Facsimile: 604 681-8355

rcavbishop@rcav.org