



Catholic Diocese of Victoria
Office of the Bishop

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Dear friends in Christ,

In 1967 the Bishops of Canada established the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development of Peace (CCODP) to foster justice and human development in the developing world. Development and Peace fulfills its mandate in collaboration with more than one hundred partner agencies on the ground, contracting with them to carry out specific projects aimed at improving the lives of our sisters and brothers in developing countries.

For many years the Diocese of Victoria has been a strong supporter of Development and Peace through our annual Share Lent Campaign and various initiatives at the parish level. It is important to acknowledge and recognize with sincere gratitude, the many people in the Diocese who give of themselves generously, wholeheartedly, and graciously in support of the work of Development and Peace.

Recently, the Western Bishops of Canada were made aware of credible investigations that have revealed serious issues regarding a number of these partner agencies that contradict the moral teachings of the Catholic Church. The Diocese of Victoria is delaying the distribution of the 2018 Share Lent collection to Development and Peace until clear assurances are received that its partner agencies comply with Catholic teaching in alignment with criteria set out by Caritas Internationalis, which the CCODP is the Canadian representative.

This has not been an easy decision given the positive impact that Development and Peace has had in the world for the past 50 years. I am hopeful that the actions of the Western Bishops will result in a new life for Development and Peace in communion with Catholic moral teaching, and that the solidarity with the poor will flourish, providing peace, justice, and hope.

In Communion,

Most Reverend Gary Gordon
Bishop of Victoria