



6 April 2018

Dear Fathers, Pastoral Assistants and Parishioners,

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) was established by the Bishops of Canada in 1967 to foster justice and integral human development in the Global South. The Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan has strongly supported Development and Peace through the annual Share Lent Campaign over the years. I was delighted with our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Development and Peace last year. The PowerPoint presentation that Rae Weniger put together surprised me with the extensive commitments made by people of our archdiocese in support of and in the spirit of Development and Peace.

Development and Peace fulfills its mandate in collaboration with over one hundred partner agencies in other parts of the world, contracting with them to carry out specific projects aimed at improving the lives of our sisters and brothers in many developing countries.

The Bishops of Canada have recently been apprised of the preliminary results of a review of these CCODP partners. The initial results communicated to us are alarming. An estimated forty partners appear to show evidence of conflict with Catholic moral and social teaching, including full respect for the sanctity of human life.

For this reason, the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan will withhold the 2018 Share Lent donations which you have given over the past couple of weeks. These and future funds will be withheld until such time as we receive clear assurance that our contributions will support only those agencies whose mission, values and practices adhere to the teachings of the Catholic Church and with the criteria of Caritas Internationalis, of which the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace is the Canadian representative.

I recognize that there are many people in this Archdiocese who give of themselves generously in support of the good works of Development and Peace, whether by donation or by assisting in the organization's educational and advocacy initiatives. I regret any pain that these of you may feel directly because of this situation. I write this letter in a spirit of transparency and accountability, and promise to keep you posted on future developments.

Yours sincerely in Christ the Redeemer,

Most Rev. Gerard Pettipas, C.Ss.R.  
Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan

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