



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For fifty years, Development and Peace - Caritas Canada has been drawing our attention to the face of Christ in the most afflicted. It was established by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) in response to the Second Vatican Council's *Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes)*. Since then, Development and Peace has worked tirelessly to champion a holistic approach to development, founded on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, and thus to proclaim the message of the Gospel in Canada and around the world. In doing so, it lives up to the ethic of the document from which the organization takes its name — Pope Paul VI's *Populorum Progressio* — which declared that development be known as the new name for peace.

As a movement of the Church, Development and Peace is also at the forefront of recognizing and stewarding the role of the laity in witnessing to the message of Jesus Christ, for the laity “are assigned to the apostolate by the Lord Himself.”¹ Recently, the CCCC has urged further lay involvement, noting that the laity are “co-responsible” for the Church’s being and acting, for transforming the world from within through their life and witness, and, together with the bishops and priests, for actively working to bring Christ to the world². Becoming an active member of Development and Peace by learning about and engaging in its mission is a prophetic way in which to take up this call.

An excellent opportunity to do so arises during their annual Fall Education and Action campaign. Continuing to be inspired by the encyclical *Laudato Si’*, Development and Peace is calling our attention to the need to work for ecological justice. Understanding better where our food comes from, what we eat, and whether all have access to proper nutrition is necessary if we are effectively to provide “bread for the world.” Therefore, the campaign aims to support agro-ecological practices used by farmers to transform and repair our food system in the face of challenges from industrial food production.

¹ Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, Pope Paul VI, November 18, 1965 (3)

² “The Co-responsibility of the lay Faithful in the Church and the World.” Canadian Conference of Bishops, September 22, 2016

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Please go online to <https://www.devp.org/en/education/fall2016> to learn more about this campaign and to see the good work that your prayers and donations support. I ask also that you think about speaking to a local member of Development and Peace about how you can become further involved.

Be assured, as always, of my prayers for you, at this time, and throughout the year.

Yours sincerely in Christ,



✠Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton
October 2016