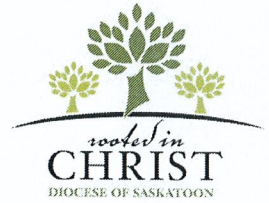




Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon
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April 10, 2018

Dear Pastors and Parish Life Directors of the Diocese of Saskatoon:

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development of Peace (CCODP) was established by the Bishops of Canada in 1967 to foster justice and integral human development in the southern world. This organization enjoys wide-spread support in this Diocese. As our Catholic faithful see the great importance of expressing charity and support with regions of our globe – especially in the Global South – that struggle in so many ways at being able to provide basic sustenance and support to a great many of their people. Our Catholic faithful also assume that the support from the parishes of our diocese will be in accord with Catholic principles based on Catholic moral and social teaching.

Development and Peace/ Caritas Canada fulfills its mandate in collaboration with more than 100 partner agencies in the Southern World, to support local, grassroots engagement in carrying out specific projects. However, it has come to the attention of the Catholic Bishops of Canada that a number of the southern partner agencies condone, and even at times promote, policies and practices that are not in compliance with Catholic teachings and, in particular, do not fully respect the sanctity of human life.


In response to these serious and concerning allegations, I have decided that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon will withhold the Development and Peace Share Lent donations from the March 18, 2018 collection taken in our parishes. The funds will be withheld until such time as the bishops of Canada receive clear assurance that Development and Peace's partner agencies around the world are in compliance with Catholic teachings and with the criteria of *Caritas Internationalis*, of which the *Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace* is the Canadian representative.

I understand that the leadership team for CCODP Canada is taking this situation very seriously, and we look forward to their response, which will provide the clarity and transparency necessary to forward the funds collected from this year's Share Lent collection.

I wish to acknowledge and thank the many people in the Diocese of Saskatoon who give of themselves generously in support of the good works of *Development and Peace*. I look forward to updating you about these developments.

Sincerely in Christ,

✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen

 In all things we are *rooted in Christ*,
in His desire to bring God's love to all peoples.