*Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon*
# OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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February 28, 2018

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ of the Diocese of Saskatoon**:

I greet you during this Lenten season, and to request your support for the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. CCODP was set up the Bishops of Canada in 1967. Its purpose is: a) to help people in need; and, b) to educate the people of our country about the causes of poverty and injustice. You can find out more about the mission and work of CCODP at their website: www.devp.org

This year's theme is "Together for Peace." CCODP is challenging all of us to deepen our understanding of peace-building through dialogue and reconciliation. This year's Share Lent materials highlight CCODP's work with partner organizations in the Global South who are seeking justice by walking paths of peace. I encourage you to share these powerful stories of peace-building initiatives in Lebanon, Peru, Cambodia and Nigeria.  Also attached is a message of information from Development and Peace regarding this year's campaign.

I understand that our diocese has a long-standing history of generous support for the Share Lent collection, as well as in participating in the education campaign during the Lenten season. Thank you for continuing to support CCODP in these important efforts. I also encourage us to participate in CCODP's "Together for Peace" appeal in our prayer, and by making personal and community commitments to dialogue, reconciliation, and peace-building.

This Lent, let us remember how, on the night before He died, Christ Himself prayed for peace and for His mission of reconciling us to God the Father and to one another. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9).

Thank you for your attention, prayer and support.

Fraternally in Christ,

✠  Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen
Bishop of Saskatoon

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