



ARCHDIOCESE *of* KINGSTON

Letter Concerning our Lenten Almsgiving

4 March 2021
Saint Casimir

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

As we move through these early weeks of our holy pilgrimage of Lent, I wish to assure you of my prayers. The Church has traditionally asked each of us to dedicate ourselves to prayer, fasting and almsgiving in our preparation for the Paschal Mysteries. For over 50 years, one vehicle for these alms to address the needs of the suffering here at home and throughout the world has been the Catholic Organization of Development and Peace (D&P).

In recent years, allegations were made that some the projects chosen by D&P supported positions contrary to the social and moral teaching of the Church. As a result, the Bishops of Canada initiated a comprehensive review of these projects and partnerships. After a three-year investigation, a confidential report was submitted to the Bishops (September 2020) and to the National Council of D&P (November 2020). Sadly, this report substantiated the serious allegations, and established a four-point strategy to address concerns, including a change in the culture at D&P.

On February 25, 2021, a joint statement by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) and D&P confirmed that the desire to help the poor, the marginalized and the outcast was not always realized in ways consistent with the Church's moral and ethical values and concerns. In a recent letter, Archbishop Gagnon, President of the CCCC, stated that, while much progress has been accomplished in the renewal of D&P, much more still needs to be done. I wish to thank the Bishops, the CCCC staff and D&P members who have worked so hard at arriving at this point.

Many changes have occurred in the world and in the Church since D&P was established in 1967. The serious issues revealed in the confidential review identify the need for a systematic change in our approach to the distribution of the Lenten alms and the support of development programs for the poor. In the coming months and years, the Archdiocese will reflect on the benefit of supporting diverse institutions dedicated to these aims.

To that end, I wish to provide some direction for the D&P special offerings, to be collected on the 5th Sunday of Lent this year. Many of us have a Share Lent or Development and Peace envelope for 2021. Therefore, I have arranged that any funds intended for D&P from the churches of the Archdiocese of Kingston will be given directly to those D&P projects which have been previously selected by the Archdiocese of Toronto. I am grateful to Cardinal Collins for his assistance in dispersing these funds to worthy partners of D&P.

Alternatively, you may wish to give your contribution to a local, national, or international charity that is close to your heart.

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I wish to express my deep appreciation for the many volunteers of D&P in our Archdiocese and in the parishes across the country. With good faith and with an exemplary care for the suffering throughout the world, they have been very generous with their time and offerings. This is also true for the many faithful who have supported the collection over many years.

For the Lenten Collection of 2022, I have instructed the pastors of the Archdiocese to order envelopes marked, "Archdiocesan Lenten Collection." This collection will be directed toward the care of the most vulnerable and will be distributed locally, nationally and internationally. The Archdiocese will continue to monitor the progress made at Development and Peace in the coming years and will explore and develop the most suitable means of distributing the precious Lenten alms of our faithful.

Let us pray also for people facing famine, poverty, and strife in our world. May God move the hearts of those who have the resources to care for their brothers and sisters in need. May God bless you for your generosity.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Michael Mulhall
Archbishop of Kingston