



September 20, 2018

***Re: Development and Peace's "Share the Journey" Campaign***

Dear Pastors,

I am writing to encourage you to support Development and Peace's fall campaign on forced migration, "Share the Journey."

As you know, each fall, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace asks the faithful across Canada to take action on a social justice issue of great consequence for the many peoples of the Global South and indeed all of humanity. This year, Development and Peace is heeding the plea of Pope Francis in September 2017 to journey with the unprecedented 68.5 million refugees around the globe. With this plea, Pope Francis launched the "Share the Journey" campaign of Caritas Internationalis, which aims to create a "culture of encounter" between those forced to flee their homes and the local communities that welcome them. It is a journey rooted in the Catholic Social Teachings of human dignity and solidarity.

Cardinal Tagle, the president of Caritas Internationalis reminds us that Jesus made many journeys in his own life: "As an unborn child he went from Nazareth to Bethlehem. As a child refugee, he went to Egypt. As a preacher, he travelled the roads of Galilee. His seemingly final journey was to travel up Calvary carrying the heavy wooden beam of a cross." We are called to recognize the suffering face of Jesus in the refugees in our midst and by listening to and accompanying them, also share in their hope.

Development and Peace is calling on the Government of Canada to go beyond just providing humanitarian aid to refugees and also address the root causes of forced migration, as well as to invest more in diplomatic and peaceful solutions to armed conflicts.

Each of you must have received a package from Development & Peace with this year's fall Campaign material and order form. Your support helps sustain the hope of this shared journey. I encourage you to support your Development & Peace parish representatives in promoting this campaign in your parish. I hope that some will partake in the walk along with many other parishes and dioceses across Canada, by fundraising and by signing the action cards, in solidarity with those forced to flee their homes. To learn more about this campaign you can visit [www.devp.org/en](http://www.devp.org/en). You can also contact Doreen Merkas from the Diocesan D & P Council at 705-693-0424.

Yours in Christ,

+Marcel Damphousse  
Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie

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