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To: All the Faithful in the Diocese of London

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Each year on the Fifth Sunday of Lent (Solidarity Sunday), the people of our diocese have always participated generously in the Development and Peace Share Lent collection. Due to the pandemic, we had to postpone the collection, but we will be having it on the weekend of **September 19-20, 2020**. I am writing to express my support for this collection, which *Development and Peace – Caritas Canada* is calling **COVID-19: Recovering Together**.

The theme of this year's collection, ***For Our Common Home***, highlights our interconnectedness with all people and our relationship with the Earth's ecosystems. During the last number of months, I have seen and heard how our parishioners have opened their hearts to the needs of our sisters and brothers throughout our diocese and around the world. We are aware of the suffering people are enduring both locally and globally during this pandemic and have had to reimagine how we might respond.

The people of the Global South are experiencing the harsh effects of the COVID-19 much more so than we are. In the Global South, many people, especially the poor, must travel and work in order to put food on the table. The wide travel and close interactions that day-to-day life requires place many at an elevated risk of catching and transmitting the virus. Our recovery from this pandemic as Catholics in Canada must not exclude those who face the hardest and longest road to recovery elsewhere.

Development and Peace's mission is to serve the poorest and most vulnerable of our world and, as Church with the power of the Holy Spirit, to build God's kingdom of peace and justice. In this great mission, Christ is our hope!

I encourage you to be generous in your support of the *Development & Peace – Caritas Canada's COVID-19: Recovering Together* collection, which we will be taking up on September 19-20. For those who want to contribute online, you can visit the Development and Peace website (www.devp.org) and choose the "Give Now" tab. On their "Give Now" page, you will find information to participate in monthly giving through their *Share Year Round* program.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B.
Bishop of London