



ARCHDIOCESE OF WINNIPEG

Catholic Centre

1495 Pembina Highway
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2C6

March 23, 2009

My friends,

I write to you today to express my concern about the Development and Peace collection which is normally taken on the 5th Sunday of Lent, next Sunday. There have been a public accusation made that Development and Peace is funding partners in Mexico and in Bolivia, partners who are involved in or supportive of abortion. These are serious charges. The Conference of Bishops has been in constant contact with the Board and administration of Development and Peace and they have assured us, with all necessary documentation, that these charges are untrue. Development and Peace does not fund the projects of partners who are in opposition to the teaching of the Church.

I am concerned that these large headlines appear just before the collection is to be taken and at a time when the world economy is making the life of the poor more and more difficult. It would truly be a travesty if our people's confidence in Development and Peace were shaken resulting in a diminished ability to help when help is desperately needed. I want to assure you once again that all possible steps have been taken by the Bishops of Canada to assure ourselves and you that Development and Peace ensures that all their sponsored projects are guided by the teachings of the Church.

Please encourage your people to extra generous in these challenging times.

Fraternally yours,

+ V. James Weisgerber
Archbishop of Winnipeg

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