

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace
Report to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
Annual Plenary Meeting
22-26 September 2008

1 INTRODUCTION

As Development and Peace concluded a year of celebration of the 40th anniversary of its founding by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1967, a number of important events confirmed the active and dynamic presence of the organization in leading the international solidarity and social justice movement in the Catholic Church in Canada. Highlights are presented below.

2 49TH INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Development and Peace was a participant in the 49th International Eucharistic Congress held in Quebec in June 2008. Our presence and activities provided witness of our social justice work to the thousands of pilgrims who attended the Congress.

Of all the activities organised by DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE during the International Eucharistic Congress, the **Night of the Landless** was among the most prominent. A camping site set up on the grounds of the Congress on 20 June 2008 allowed pilgrims to sleep outside all night, in solidarity with the landless peasants of Brazil.

After an informal picnic supper and a presentation on Brazil's Landless Rural Worker's Movement, **Cardinal Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga**, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, spoke of land redistribution and poverty in Latin America. He invited the assembly to work for social justice and to put pressure on the Canadian government to work toward changing unjust international structures. The Cardinal, also **President of Caritas Internationalis**, has been a driving force behind efforts to promote responsible mining in Honduras.

During the Night of the Landless, over 125 participants took part in activities including presentations, music, singing, storytelling and films, finishing with a free breakfast under the main tent and a *mística* (Brazilian spiritual celebration).

Earlier in the week of the Congress, **Father Jean-Patrice Ngoyi**, Director of the Justice, Development and Peace Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria, gave a conference on human rights, development challenges, control and management of extractive resources in his country.

Throughout the week of the International Eucharistic Congress, pilgrims were invited to sign a petition asking that the Canadian government create an independent ombudsperson to verify social responsibility by Canadian mining, oil and gas companies in their overseas operations. Over 900 signatures were obtained, including that of Cardinal Rodríguez, joining the 195,000 Canadians who have already signed the petition.

Father Jean-Patrice Ngoyi and **Gabrielle Lachance**, President of the DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE Quebec Diocesan Council, participated in a panel discussion on "Eucharist and Liberation".

3 POPULORUM PROGRESSIO -- INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

In closing the year of celebration for our 40th anniversary, as well as commemorating the 40th anniversary of the papal encyclical *Populorum Progressio* (a key inspirational document for the founding of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE in 1967), DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE joined with fellow member organizations of **CIDSE (International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity)** in hosting an international conference – *Working Together for Global Justice: Celebrating 40 years of Populorum Progressio* -- in Soesterberg, Netherlands, 24-26 October 2007.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE National Council member **Joe Rodgers** and Executive Director **Michael Casey** joined with our international partner **CAPRI** from Nicaragua (represented by their Executive Director **Mr. Justiniano Liebl**) to present a “story of change” of our project with CAPRI, which bears witness to the “spirit of *Populorum Progressio*” in development work. The CAPRI project supports the reintegration of former combatants into society and community following the decade-long civil war in Nicaragua. DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE has been the principal supporter of this project since its inception and continues to accompany CAPRI on their mission of restoring peace to a country ravaged by war.

Approximately 160 delegates from CIDSE member organizations and partners participated in the Conference, which also marked the 40th anniversary of CIDSE. This is an alliance of 16 Catholic international development agencies from Europe and North America. DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE has been a member of CIDSE for more than 35 years.

4 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Our international programs continued to support and accompany more than 200 partners in 33 countries around the world, promoting social justice and international solidarity.

- **CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK PARTNERSHIP PROJECT – CARITAS ZAMBIA**

Development and Peace became a member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) in June 2007. In our first year of membership (to 31 March 2008), Canadian farmers donated \$110,000 to our account at the CFGB, enabling us to prepare our first project – an initiative with partner **Caritas Zambia** to support 4,000 households (approximately 24,000 persons) of the most vulnerable of the population affected by the severe rainstorms and flash flooding in the country.

Under the partnership project financing formula of the CFGB, we were able to leverage \$89,000 from our equity account in the CFGB into a total project of

\$500,000, utilizing matching funds from the CFGB general account and from the CIDA contribution agreement with CFGB.

Caritas Zambia will distribute locally purchased food, as well as provide seeds and fertilizer to local farmers for fast winter cropping during the April-June / November-March seasons. The project beneficiaries will receive appropriate farm implements and technical know-how to manage their crops, including post-harvest storage and marketing.

This new initiative demonstrates the leverage possibilities for DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE through our membership in CFGB, enabling us to expand our programming and involvement in food security issues with our partners in the Global South.

5 DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION / SOLIDARITY PROGRAMS

In the fall of 2006, we launched a new five-year advocacy program focusing on responsible management, use, and equitable access to natural resources by our governments, Canadian companies and individual Canadians. For the first two years, our actions focus on extractive industries, specifically mining operations.

- **FALL ACTION CAMPAIGN 2007 – INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY IN ACTION**

The principal theme of our **Fall Action 2007** campaign was urging the Government of Canada to deliver on its commitment to act on the findings of a nationwide consultation (“roundtables”) regarding the corporate social responsibility of Canadian mining companies. The key recommendation was the appointment of an ombudsperson to verify social responsibility by Canadian mining, oil and gas companies in their overseas operations.

To conclude the 2007 campaign, a delegation of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE members and staff delivered more than 195,000 signed action postcards to Ottawa on 13 May 2008. The cards were symbolically presented to the office of the Prime Minister in a ceremony on Parliament Hill, urging the Canadian government to act on the report recommending the appointment of an ombudsperson.

Included in the total of the signed cards delivered to the Prime Minister were 3,580 signed cards from DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE partner **Centro de Cultura Popular Labor** in **Cerro de Pasco, Peru**, as well as 4,000 cards signed by residents of **Canatuan** in the southern **Philippines**, where Canadian mining company TVI operates a gold, copper, and zinc mine. These initiatives are the first time that our partner organizations in the Global South have been active joint participants in our campaigns, demonstrating true global solidarity on these important issues.

Several Canadian MPs (including Viviane Barbot [BQ], Steven Blaney [PC], Diane Bourgeois [BQ], Bernard Patry [L] and Alexa McDonough [NDP]), representing all major parties in the House of Commons, spoke in support of the campaign. This marked the first occasion in a recent Development and Peace campaign where

messages of support and participation in a campaign event involved all political parties.

At the event, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE's **Just Youth** group from **Carleton University**, of Ottawa, staged a street theatre performance on the human rights and environmental violations of Canadian mining companies.

The Canadian government has not yet responded to the report of the Advisory Group of the National Roundtables on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The report, which contained 27 recommendations to improve the CSR performance of Canadian companies, was submitted to the government nearly 500 days ago.

Across Canada, members of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE met this year with 73 federal MPs in their home ridings, to present the 2007 Fall Action campaign and inform them of the growing number of Canadian citizens who are participating in this initiative.

- **SOLIDARITY VISITORS / EXPOSURE TOURS**

As part of our annual Share Lent 2008 campaign, a number of dioceses and parishes across Canada hosted the visit of several of our international partners, who made presentations and spoke with parish groups about their work in partnership with DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE.

Among the visitors were:

- **Pedro Landa** from **Caritas Tegucigalpa (Honduras)**, visiting central and northern Ontario, Montreal and Ottawa.
- **Wardah Hafidz** from **UPLINK** in **Indonesia** (our partner in the highly successful Tsunami project), visiting several dioceses in the Maritimes;
- **Fidèle Mutombo Banza**, D&P advisor in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, visiting parishes in Manitoba and in the Outaouais area;
- **Father Libardo Valderrama Centeno**, Deputy Director of the **Development and Peace Corporation of the Magdalena Medio** in **Colombia**, visiting the greater Montreal area and the diocese of Sherbrooke, Quebec.

During the summer months of 2008, a number of dioceses organized solidarity tours to nine countries, enabling Development and Peace members to witness first-hand the work of Development and Peace partners. Solidarity tours were organized to:

- **Zambia** (members of dioceses of Central Ontario);
- **Guatemala** and **Honduras** (members of dioceses of Southwestern Ontario);
- **Ecuador** (members of dioceses of Eastern Ontario);

- **Nigeria** (youth members from different regions of Canada);
- **Togo** and **Benin** (members of the Diocese of St-Jean-Longueuil, Quebec);
- **Burundi** (members of the Archdiocese of Gatineau, Quebec);
- **Cambodia** (a Francophone youth group from different regions of Canada).

6 EMERGENCY RELIEF

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE designates 10% of its *Share Lent* proceeds for emergency relief projects to alleviate suffering caused by natural disasters and civil conflict. Our principal partner in emergency response is the *Caritas Internationalis* network, through which approximately 85% of our emergency relief funds are channelled to disaster victims around the globe.

Cyclone Nargis - Burma

Cyclone Nargis devastated Burma (Myanmar) on 2 May 2008, leaving 134,000 dead or missing, and displacing hundreds of thousands of victims from their destroyed homes. In the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE launched a public appeal for donations to support relief efforts for the provision of food, medical and water purification equipment, as well as temporary shelter materials to more than 60,000 victims of the cyclone. Working through the Caritas Internationalis network and the Catholic Church in Burma, we are able to access the affected areas and ensure delivery of this badly needed assistance.

The **Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB)** supported the DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE campaign with a letter to all parishes encouraging Canadian Catholics to give through a special collection during the first two weeks of June. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has pledged to match any donation made to the Burma appeal through DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE before 13 June 2008.

The campaign was highly successful, raising more than \$2.1 million, of which \$1.3 million is eligible for the matching funds program of the Canadian government.

China Earthquake

Immediately following the disaster in Burma, on 12 May 2008, an earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale hit Sichuan province, a mountainous region in Western China. In the aftermath of the disaster, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE received more than \$500,000 in unsolicited donations from parishes and individuals across Canada to aid the victims, which was quickly mobilized by Caritas Hong Kong as part of the massive relief effort underway

As part of our emergency programs, we continue our ongoing support to *Jesuit Relief Services* for their programs with internally displaced persons and refugees in disaster areas.

7 SHARE LENT CAMPAIGN 2008

As always, the annual **Share Lent** collection represents the single most important fund-raising event for DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE, accounting for approximately 40% of our total annual revenue. The support received from Canadian Catholics through this special collection is the foundation of our movement and our work to promote development and social justice throughout the world.

The support of our Bishops is critical for the success of this annual collection. There has consistently been a direct positive link between the active involvement of the Bishops (in the form of pastoral letters or discussion and promotion of the collection) and the amount contributed to our work. DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE is very grateful for this support and encouragement.

2008 campaign – the year of the Snowstorm

On Solidarity Sunday, 9 March, the date of the Share Lent collection, areas in the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes were hit with a major winter storm, serious enough that it was dangerous, and in many cases impossible, to travel by road. Reports from our staff in these provinces indicated that church attendance was significantly down in a large number of regions as a result.

In anticipation of the potential serious negative impact on our Share Lent 2008 collection, we sent a letter to the Bishops of all of the dioceses affected by the winter storms (29 French-language dioceses; 13 English-language dioceses) requesting that the Share Lent collection be re-scheduled for a later Sunday after Easter.

In positive response to our special appeal for re-scheduling the Share Lent collection, the majority of the dioceses affected held supplementary collections for DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE on subsequent Sundays. As at 30 June 2008, our Lenten collection receipts (35% of the anticipated funds have been received to date) were approximately equal to the amounts collected at this point last year (2007), a preliminary indication that the actions of our members and the clergy at the parish level helped maintain our most important fund-raising campaign.

8 NETWORKING

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE continues to maintain active global linkages with international and Canadian development networks and organizations. We are closely linked with and active members of (among others) **Caritas Internationalis**; **CIDSE** (International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity); **Kairos**; the **Canadian Council for International Cooperation** (CCIC); l'Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale – **AQOCI**; and **Pax Christi**.

CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS visitors

In late January 2008, we hosted the visit to Development and Peace of **Rev. Larry Snyder**, President of **Caritas North America** and **Ms. Kathy Brown**, Regional Coordinator – Caritas North America. The visit was for planning the Caritas North America Strategic Plan, in coordination with the Caritas Internationalis Strategic Plan adopted at the Caritas Internationalis General Assembly in Rome in June 2007.

In mid-February, we hosted the visit to Montreal of **Ms. Lesley-Anne Knight**, newly appointed **Secretary General** of **Caritas Internationalis** for a two-day visit with Development and Peace. As part of the visit, Ms. Knight met with the Humanitarian Assistance Program of CIDA in Ottawa, to introduce the Caritas Internationalis network in the field of humanitarian assistance and emergency relief, and to highlight the membership of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE in this network as **Caritas Canada**.

PAX CHRISTI visitors

In May, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE welcomed the visit of **Ms. Claudette Werleigh**, incoming **Secretary General** of **Pax Christi International**, and **Mr. Étienne de Jonghe** (outgoing Secretary General) on the occasion of their introductory visit to North America for Ms. Werleigh to meet Pax Christi members.

KAIROS Church leaders meeting

On 30 April, **Kairos**, the ecumenical justice coalition of which both DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops are members, held a dialogue of Church leaders from the 12 church groups represented in Kairos. Development and Peace President **Ms. Hélène Trépanier** and **Bishop James M. Wingle** of St. Catharines, Ontario (representing the CCCB) participated in the meeting, discussing the ecumenical approach to social justice work and ways of furthering ecumenical collaboration through the Kairos coalition.

9 ORGANIZATIONAL RENEWAL

The restructuring process begun in June 2005 completed its first phase during the year, with an evaluation confirming that DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE has succeeded in meeting its first-phase reorganization challenges. A small financial surplus was generated during the fiscal year, enabling the organization to begin rebuilding financial reserves and meeting the long-term goal of financial stability and sustainability.

The next phase of the restructuring will focus on the development and implementation of a long-term strategic plan, designed to address key future challenges facing DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE.
