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20 February 2019

To: The Faithful of the Diocese of London

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Re: Share Lent Campaign

As in years past, I am writing to express my support for the Share Lent Campaign, which is organized annually by the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP). Responding to Pope Francis' appeal, this year's campaign, *Share the Journey*, focusses on the forced migration of 68.5 million people in the world today. It invites Canadians to pray for our sisters and brothers who have had to flee their homeland and to "share the journey" with them.

Over the past few years, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has raised serious concerns regarding some of the partners funded by CCODP in the Global South. Currently, of the over 150 partners who work with CCODP, there are 52 partners under review because of persistent allegations that these partners have promoted positions contrary to Church teaching on moral issues such as abortion. I would like to emphasize that the CCCB and CCODP are working together to address this matter and to ensure that in all of its activities CCODP is following Church teaching.

This past fall, in his response to concerns raised by the bishops of Ontario, Mr. Serge Langlois, Executive Director of CCODP, affirmed that he intends to continue working with the bishops to complete the review of partners and to resolve the outstanding issues. He pledged not to use any 2018 Share Lent funds for the partners under review, as long as the bishops' concerns remain unresolved. CCODP has placed a temporary financial moratorium on the financing of the partners under review. With these assurances, I submitted the funds collected in the parishes of our diocese for the 2018 Share Lent Campaign, which totaled over \$270,000.

Year after year, the people of our diocese have been extremely generous in supporting the work of CCODP and its emergency relief efforts. I thank you and encourage you to be generous, again, in your contributions to this year's Share Lent Campaign.

For information about the work of CCODP, visit their website at www.devp.org. To learn more about the 2019 Share Lent Campaign and the many excellent resources available, click on the Resources/Share Lent link. Information about the Share Year-Round monthly giving plan and its benefits is available at www.devp.org/shareyearround.

This Lent, as we take time to reflect on the forced migration of millions of our sisters and brothers and to pray for them, may we open our hearts to the Gospel and learn to walk together in solidarity with them.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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