



March 24, 2023

Dear friends,

The season of Lent calls us to fast, pray, give alms and to reflect on the marginalized - those who are affected by situations of poverty. This Lent, I am encouraging you to once again, continue your support for Development and Peace, that supports over 86 projects and networks in 40 countries, supporting alternative efforts to the political, social and economic systems of poverty in the Global South.

This year, Development and Peace will be focusing on the campaign – ***Stand for the Land***, and the work of our partners for the defence and preservation of territory. This year, Development and Peace is supporting the Asociación Campesina de Antioquía (ACA – Peasant Association of Antioquia) in Colombia. From 2018 to 2022, 957 community leaders and human rights defenders were assassinated for defending their territory against ecological, social and cultural harm from industrial agriculture, mining and even supposedly green energy projects. Many of ACA's leaders, having themselves suffered violence and dispossession, are deeply committed to promoting ecological sustainability and creating opportunities for training, influencing public policies, and increasing access to the legal occupation of land, such as providing land titles and hiring lawyers. Furthermore, Development and Peace will also be supporting the work of Equipo de Reflexión, Investigación y Comunicación (ERIC – Reflection, Research and Communication Team). This Jesuit organization stands with poor and dispossessed Hondurans in their struggle for land and territory; documents the impact of government policies; and investigates human rights abuses. They accompany those who are criminalized for defending their land and territory and help them access justice.

Development and Peace encourages the faithful to give generously on ***Solidarity Sunday – March 26, 2023***. The funds raised will continue to support the grassroots work of our partners.

I also encourage communities to continue throughout the year to share about the campaign, such as bulletin announcements and videos to show the faithful. These resources can be found at [Resources – Development and Peace \(devp.org\)](#).

If you have any further questions, you may contact Jason Cegayle, Regional Animator for Development and Peace for Manitoba and Thunder Bay at jcegayle@devp.org or at (204) 231-2848.

Praying a blessed Lent.

Archbishop Albert LeGatt, D.D
Archdiocese of Saint-Boniface

