



Office of the Bishop

6 March 2025

Dear Reverend Fathers,

This year, the year of the Jubilee, we are invited to join the global Catholic campaign led by *Caritas Internationalis* to “Turn Debt into Hope.” As in the biblical jubilee, we encourage activities to restore hope for people living in countries burdened by unjust and insurmountable debt.

Development & Peace – Caritas Canada (D&P) is part of the effort to address the root causes of poverty, oppression, and inequality by working with partners in the Global South and by mobilizing Canadians in the common struggle for justice and dignity.

I want to inform you that as of September 16, 2024, Raphael Freston is the new animator for Development & Peace in the Diocese of Nelson. Raphael is responsible for assisting the executive of the Nelson Diocese D&P council in its local affairs and at its meetings. He also promotes D&P in our local parishes.

The Diocese of Nelson has always been a strong supporter of D&P for its good work in advocacy and support for the Global South. Our parishioners have a long-standing commitment to D&P through our annual Share Lent campaign.

I encourage you to invite and welcome Raphael and the Nelson Diocese team and/or local representatives to your parish to learn more and please support their initiatives in whatever way you can.

I also encourage you and your parishioners to attend the forthcoming workshop on “Turn Debt into Hope” to be held on Saturday, 8th of March, at Corpus Christi Parish. Don’t forget to support and promote D&P including their fundraising effort on Solidarity Sunday.

With prayers and best wishes for a fruitful and blessed Lent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠ Gregory J Bittman
Bishop of Nelson