

APPEAL TO PASTORS AND FAITHFULL FOR AN EMERGENCY FUND FOR HAITI

(St. John's, NL – January 14, 2010) Archbishop Martin Currie of St. John's and Grand Falls is appealing to Catholics and people of good will throughout the province to give generously to a special parish collection that will be held next weekend (January 23 – 24) in all parish churches. The proceeds of the collection will be directed to the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (D and P) for an emergency campaign for Haiti.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has reported that the impact of the recent earthquake on Haiti has been enormous. Although reliable estimates on human casualties are not yet available, reports indicate that much of the city is in rubble, thousands are feared dead, and hundreds of thousands are left homeless. Three million people are in need of disaster relief.

Among the dead is Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot of Port-au-Prince an acquaintance of Archbishop Currie's. The lifeless body of Archbishop Miot was found under the rubble of the archbishops' home following the earthquake. Archbishop Currie met Archbishop Miot while in Rome in June 2008. They both received the pallium - the symbol of their office as Archbishop from Pope Benedict .

Archbishop Currie has asked the priests and all faithful in all parishes to remember the victims in their prayers and petitions .

Pat Hogan of St. John's is the President of Development and Peace's National Council. The organization has already committed a first pledge of \$50,000 to Caritas Haiti, which runs 200 medical clinics in the country but is in dire need of financial resources to respond to the growing humanitarian needs of this population in crisis.

As a member of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops , Archbishop Currie has served on the National Council for Development and Peace, founded by the Bishops of Canada 40 years ago as their agency for international development and solidarity.

The Canadian bishops join with D and P in launching the joint emergency campaign for Haiti. The Canadian Bishop's will be working closely with D and P in helping to organize and promote this appeal, as well as assuring appropriate follow – up with the Church in Haiti and with the Bishops in that country.

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