



March 15, 2010

To the Pastors and Faithful of the Diocese of Prince Albert

Warm greetings of peace to you, my dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today's Entrance Antiphon begins with this beautiful phrase from Ezekiel; "I will prove my holiness through you." The Haitian people experienced God's holiness from the generous response of people around the world in January at the time of their earthquake disaster. How better to know of God's holy love than through the global communities' outpouring of resources.

Through Development and Peace's fall campaign, the Canadian church became more aware of the one billion people lacking sufficient food each day. God's holiness reaches through Jesus' words to the first disciples when He told them, "Give them something to eat". (Mark 6.37). We see this challenge echoed in the encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*, when Pope Benedict reminds us that feeding our sisters and brothers in need is "...an ethical imperative for the universal Church, as she responds to the teachings of her Founder, the Lord Jesus, concerning solidarity and the sharing of goods" (no. 27).

As contemporary disciples of Christ and members of the Church, let us accept this Gospel challenge by giving to Share Lent. We will see our gifts grow in goodness as they are used by Development and Peace partners to improve the quality of life for people in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. For them, the food crisis is far from over. If, however, we share our resources with small-scale farmers in the Global South, they can, very effectively, help combat hunger within their local communities, for themselves and for their families.

The Entrance Antiphon closes with these words: "I will give you a new spirit within you". May we experience this new spirit within us as we gladly demonstrate to our hungry sisters and brothers, God's holiness; God's overflowing bounteous love for all!

Thank-you for your heartfelt generosity to the Haitian community. In this same spirit of urgency, I ask you dear friends, to continue your financial support for D&P's important work across the Global South.

Let us pray for one another as we witness to the Risen Christ among us,

+ Albert Thévenot, M. Afr.
Bishop of Prince Albert