

Emergency appeal for Syrian refugees....

Pope Francis sent words of encouragement to the Syrian refugees. “To those who are suffering, I say never lose hope. The church is alongside you, accompanies you and supports you”

Our Canadian bishops and Development and Peace are responding to the message from Pope Francis to provide humanitarian aid for Syrian people.

The Canadian Catholic Organization of Development and Peace is appealing to all Canadians for emergency aid to support the victims of the war in Syria. One half of the refugees fleeing Syria are children. This is the worst humanitarian tragedy of the 21st century. Envelopes are available at the entrance of the church. On line donations devp.org/donate/syria. Thank you for your support.

As many of you may know, the current state of Syria is one of war and turmoil. For the past several months, the situation has been growing increasingly worse. Close to one hundred thousand people have died in this conflict since it began in early 2011. Thousands of Syrians are fleeing their home country every day, and millions are in need of humanitarian assistance (UNHCR, 2013). This email serves to inform you about the situation, as well as to what Development and Peace and its many members can do to help.

On Friday, June 21st, Development and Peace, along with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), launched a joint campaign to help the victims of the war in Syria. Dioceses have been invited to carry out a special collection in the parishes between June 30th and September 14th, 2013. This special appeal culminates in a day of prayer and fasting for the people of Syria and the Middle East on Saturday, September 14th, which is the Feast of Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

We encourage each member of Development and Peace to take action to aid those affected by the war and turmoil in Syria. Please take a few minutes to read the attached documents. The first document, titled [Questions and Answers: Syria Crisis Appeal](#), provides background information on the current situation in Syria, talks about the urgent needs that are present, how to donate, and answers many other questions that you may have. The second document discusses the current and upcoming programs which occur through Development and Peace and its partners in the region. This document is called [Summary of Development and Peace Middle East Programs](#).