

# SAMPLE LETTER

February 2010

Parishioners of the Parish  
Our Church  
Our Town, Montana

My Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Every year at this time of the Church's Liturgical season, through our diocesan Care and Share, we are offered the opportunity to participate in the spirit of Lent by prayerfully reflecting on, and sharing the many gifts God has given to each of us.

Each registered household will have received by now their 2010 Care and Share information in the mail. The offerings you make are primarily for the benefit of ministries here in Eastern Montana, as we, as a diocesan Church community, seek to evangelize and spread the good news. Our less fortunate brothers and sisters, struggling in other parts of the country and world also benefit from your compassion and generosity as we reach out to the worldwide Church through diocesan contributions to the USCCB's National Collections.

As Catholic Christians, we are all called by our baptism to being an evangelizing people. When we reach out with the mindset that evangelization is our mission we must keep in mind that stewardship is the means to that mission. We must always remember that the ministries supported by Care and Share are an evangelization effort and an important and essential element of the life and future of our Catholic Church.

The Care and Share poster offers us this year the beautiful iconic image that asks us to meditate and pray on Mark 4:13-15. "From Small Beginnings..." – as small as a mustard seed – mighty acts of faith result. May we, as a parish community, share in the larger diocesan community, and the worldwide Church, as we join together in this season of fasting, prayer and alms giving; may we from small beginnings grow as the mustard seed into a mighty tree offering shade so all may dwell in safety under our branches. Let us join together in this vision to produce lasting fruit for the people of our diocese.

I pray for each of you, as you prayerfully consider your Care and Share offering this year, and asking your prayers for me, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Pastor