



TIMETABLE
for
2010 CARE AND SHARE

Week of February 1	All materials for appeal mailed to Pastors.
February 6-7	Pulpit Appeal for Care and Share Program.
February 19-20	Care and Share brochure and donation envelope mailed to each family in the diocese. Personal letter from Pastors to parishioners.
March 6-7	CARE AND SHARE APPEAL.
April 12-16	Follow-up letter to parishioners.
April 23	Suggested deadline for first submittal of Care and Share donor list and parish check.

NOTES/SUGGESTIONS

Have a parish meeting between Pastors and Chairpersons with their workers, explanation of duties and their assignments.

Mail parish check ***at least monthly*** to the Business Office ***along with a list of names and addresses*** for those who donated and the corresponding amounts. **DO NOT mail individual donor checks to the Business Office. All Care and Share contributions should be processed at the parish and reflected in the parish bookkeeping system.**

If names and addresses of donors are supplied, the Business Office will provide letters of substantiation or contributions of \$250 or more for IRS purposes.

Continue to send in checks and reports as often as is feasible, but at least monthly. Please indicate if the contributors are paying on a pledge or are making their initial 2010 contribution. Parishes are expected to satisfy their assessments to the 2010 Care and Share Appeal by **October 31st**.



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

Care and Share has been taking place in Eastern Montana for 40 years. It began as a means to support diocesan ministries fairly as well as meeting the external financial responsibilities the Diocese shares as a member of the universal church. It has retained this basic purpose for all of its years of existence. By contributing to *Care and Share* over the years, faithful Catholics like you have participated in evangelization efforts reaching far beyond their parish boundaries.

Evangelization is what we, as members of the Church, must be about. Evangelization, as Pope Paul VI affirmed, is the “essential mission of the Church.” While there are specific ways in which each of us evangelizes personally, there is also a responsibility to do so corporately. And the only way that the Church can effectively evangelize, either separately as individuals or corporately as a body, is through our stewardship of the gifts we have received from God. This is what I ask you to consider as you reflect upon and pray about your gift to the 2010 Care and Share.

While some people may think of *Care and Share* as a tax on their parish, it is rather an opportunity to exercise discipleship. When we share our gifts, we are also sharing in the wider mission of the Church throughout Eastern Montana and beyond.

At the heart of discipleship is the cross of Christ, the sign of God’s total giving of himself for our salvation in Christ. When we participate in *Care and Share*, we are giving back to God a fraction of the gift we have received from him.

As people of God throughout Eastern Montana, you have responded generously over the years. Like all communities, the Church continues to grow, and develop as we seek to respond to the needs of God’s people and therefore continue to need your generosity and support. We are a small missionary Diocese, small as the mustard seed, and like the mustard seed, capable of growth into a mighty tree offering shade, comfort, and safety for our entire diocesan family. My prayers are with each of you as I ask you to reflect on the words of Pope Paul VI, and to consider your Care and Share offering this year, combining your gifts with mine for the mission of this evangelizing diocesan Church.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael W. Warfel".

Michael W. Warfel
Bishop of Great Falls-Billings

Care and Share 2010

Bulletin Announcements and/or Pulpit Announcements

February 6 - 7, 2010 – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Luke 5:1-11)

In today's gospel, Jesus calls Peter to follow him after filling Peter's fishing nets to the point of bursting. Recognizing his own humanity, and astonished at the abundance he has been given, Peter falls to his knees at the feet of Jesus. As we prayerfully consider our 2010 Care and Share invitation, may we too hear Jesus call us, and experience Peter's astonishment as we recognize we are filled with the abundance of Jesus.

February 13 - 14, 2010 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Luke 6:17, 20-26)

St Luke shares with us today the Beatitudes in a poetic balance of blessings and woes. In Luke's rendition, Jesus speaks directly to his disciples, calling them to a life contrary to society, as they knew it. As disciples of Jesus, we too are all called to a life contrary to society, as we know it and, together as a community, live out that calling. May we assist one another, and our Church, supporting each other in community, through our Care and Share contribution, to answer Jesus' call to live our lives differently.

February 20 - 21, 2010 – First Sunday of Lent (Luke 4:1-13)

The words of the gospel today lead us to begin our Lenten journey by following Jesus into the desert for 40 days where he will fast and be tempted. Throughout the temptations, Jesus remained steadfast in his absolute obedience and surrender to the will of God. As we begin our Lenten journey, cleansing our hearts and souls during these 40 days, may we too remain steadfast in our obedience and surrender to the will of God, and may our eyes be opened to the care of God's Church through our generous offerings to Care and Share.

February 27 - 28, 2010 – Second Sunday of Lent (Luke 9:28b-36)

The familiar story of today's gospel is of the transfiguration of Jesus and appearing in his glory before Peter, John and James, his apostles, who are overcome with joy. Their silence testifies to the transformation that was occurring in their hearts. May our hearts be transformed this Lenten season through fasting, prayer, and alms giving. May the sharing of our treasure, by a gift to Care and Share, aid in the transformation of the lives of others, through the many programs made possible by our offering.

March 6-7, 2010 – Third Sunday of Lent (Luke 13:1-9)

Lent is a journey about transformation, repenting and seeking God's mercy. The gospel speaks to us of all of these today. Jesus tells us the Galileans sacrificed, and those killed in the collapse of the tower of Siloam, sinned no more than any other, and calls us to repent. The story of the fig tree tells us of God's mercy, the hope he holds for us, and that, given the opportunity to grow, we too will bear fruit. Our individual journeys are unique and diverse as we are, but we all share in God's Church to sustain our journey. May we make our offering to Care and Share part of our journey.

or

March 6-7, 2010 – Year A, Third Sunday of Lent (John 4:5-42)

The gospel of John tells us today about the Samaritan woman by the well, whose soul is touched, and enlightened by the life-giving water Jesus offers. Her life is transformed and she is compelled to reach out to her family, friends and neighbors to share the gift she has been granted. As we too are touched during this Lenten season, and Jesus' life-giving water poured over us, may we too be transformed, as the Samaritan woman was, and turn to our brothers and sisters to share the many gifts granted to us, by our offering to Care and Share.

March 13-14, 2010 – Fourth Sunday of Lent (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)

The prodigal son returns to his father's open arms in today's gospel story, and is clothed in riches, and fed from the fattened calf. The father's love and forgiveness knows no limits, and his joy abounds as he rejoices in the return of his youngest son. As we reflect on this parable and the generosity of the father, may our hearts know no limits as we prayerfully consider our brothers and sisters in our own Care and Share gift.

March 13-14, 2010 – Year A, Fourth Sunday of Lent (John 9:1-41)

Jesus heals the man born blind in today's gospel and the man comes to see the world in a completely new way. After many trials and tribulations, he sees Jesus and the world around him in a new light, proclaiming his faith in Jesus and worshiping him. May our eyes be opened to our own faith this Lenten season, our hearts be transformed, and may we express our gratitude for the gifts we are given through our generosity in our own Care and Share gift.

March 20-21, 2010 – Fifth Sunday of Lent (John 8:1-11)

As we approach the end of our Lenten journey, Jesus asks us, in the story of the woman caught in adultery, who among us is without sin, who among us can judge another. He then sends the woman out to begin her life anew, as he sends us out over and over again to begin our lives anew. May we too know his infinite mercy, and seek to imitate him by helping our brothers and sisters to begin their lives anew by providing for the ministries offered through our Care and Share gift.

March 20-21, 2010 – Year A, Fifth Sunday of Lent (John 11:1-45)

In John's gospel today, Jesus tells us the death and rising of his friend Lazarus "is for the glory of God, and that his son might be glorified through it". During the course of this miracle, Mary proclaimed her faith, and we are told many more came to believe Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. As we seek to share our gifts through our Care and Share offering, may we too proclaim our faith, and help many more come to believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.

March 27-28, 2010 – Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday marks the beginning to a somber time of reflection for us as we begin an intensive week of spiritual preparation for the death and resurrection of Jesus. He came as a humble king into this world, then opened his arms and poured out his life for us and all our brothers and sisters on the cross. As we live under the shelter of his outstretched arms may we prayerfully reflect on how we live our lives and share our gifts and talents with those around us through our Care and Share gift.

April 3-4, 2010 – Easter Sunday

On this great day, we listen again as the good news of Easter is spoken to the frightened, grief-stricken disciples; this Jesus, the one you love, follow and know, this Jesus has been raised to new life. May our hearts and minds be flooded with the good news and, with renewed hope in Christ, may we allow the living presence of the Risen Lord to dwell in us, and inspire us to be the hands and heart of Christ by generously supporting the ministries Care and Share supports.

Care and Share 2010

General Intercessions

February 6 - 7, 2010 – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

As Peter trusted the call he heard from Jesus to recast his nets and found himself blessed with abundance, may we too recognize and share our abundance in our Care and Share offering. We pray to the Lord.

February 13 - 14, 2010 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

As we are challenged by the beatitudes to live an extraordinary life, in an ordinary way, may we remember the struggles of our brothers and sisters and ease their struggle to faith by our offering to Care and Share. We pray to the Lord

February 20 - 21, 2010 – First Sunday of Lent

As we begin our Lenten journey, may we be open to the will of God in our lives, and hear how we are called to share in the care of his Church through our Care and Share gift. We pray to the Lord

February 27 - 28, 2010 – Second Sunday of Lent

During this Lenten season, we are called to transform our lives through fasting, prayers, and alms giving. May we recognize the many blessings and treasures we possess and be inspired to share these for the benefit of others, by our Care and Share offering. We pray to the Lord

March 6-7, 2010 – Third Sunday of Lent

As we are called to repent and seek the Lord during this Lenten season, may we recognize our role in God's Church, and answer the call to sustain the many ministries supported by our Care and Share gift. We pray to the Lord.

or

March 6-7, 2010 – Year A, Third Sunday of Lent

As the Samaritan woman was compelled to reach out to her community and share the words of Jesus, may we too feel compelled to share the many gifts granted to us, by our offering to Care and Share. We pray to the Lord.

March 13-14, 2010 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

As our Lenten journey continues and we find ourselves recognizing the infinite love, mercy and forgiveness of God our Father, may we open our own hearts to share the many gifts granted to us by our gift to Care and Share. We pray to the Lord.

March 13-14, 2010 – Year A, Fourth Sunday of Lent

As we face the many trials and tribulations of our lives, may our eyes be opened as the eyes of the man born blind were, to see how our gift to Care and Share benefits our Church community. We pray to the Lord.

March 20-21, 2010 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

As we approach the end of our Lenten journey, may God grant us the strength and courage to begin our lives in him anew, to know him, and how we participate in his Church by our Care and Share gift. We pray to the Lord.

March 20-21, 2010 – Year A, Fifth Sunday of Lent (John 11:1-45)

As we heard in the story of Lazarus, many came to believe in Jesus, may we too proclaim our faith, and offer others the gift of faith by supporting the ministries supported by our Care and Share gift. We pray to the Lord.

March 27-28, 2010 – Palm Sunday

As we enter this week of spiritual preparation for the death and resurrection of Jesus, may we seek to know how we are called to share our gifts by our Care and Share offering. We pray to the Lord.

April 3-4, 2010 – Easter Sunday

On this glorious day of our Lord, may we answer our baptismal call by generously supporting the ministries Care and Share supports. We pray to the Lord.



Did you know?

Formation of parish leaders on your parish pastoral council, parish finance council, parish worship, education, and social justice commissions is made available by diocesan outreach staff. The funding for these outreach efforts are made possible by your generous contributions to Care & Share.



Did you know?

Bishop Warfel travels over 25,000 miles each year, within the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, visiting parishes, and missions, meeting the people, which he shepherds. Your Care & Share offerings provide the means for Bishop Warfel to personally reach out to our brothers and sisters throughout the 94,158 square miles of this diocese.



Did you know?

98¢ of every dollar of your Care & Share gift directly funds outreach services in our Diocese including liturgical planning and training, pastoral leadership and guidance, and the education and formation of adults, youth and children.



Did you know?

Our obligation as Catholics to respond to the gospel imperative to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless and care for the suffering is met with our collective Care and Share dollars. National and global efforts such as Catholic Relief Services, Latin American Missions, Holy Land, and Peter's Pence all benefit from our generosity as a Diocesan family.



Did you know?

Our Christian values are promoted through the joint efforts of the Bishop of Great Falls-Billings and the Bishop of Helena through the voice and ministry of Montana Catholic Conference and Catholic Social Services of Montana. These two all-important organizations are funded by your Care and Share contributions, which ensure that our Catholic values are promoted in the public arena.



Did you know?

Care & Share offerings are a parish's opportunity to share in the ministry of Bishop Warfel and this Diocesan family by providing the means to support fundamental services to parishes throughout eastern Montana.



Did you know?

Your Care & Share contribution provides the means for Bishop Warfel, the priests of the diocese, and the laity to gather for meetings to discuss the direction and vision of our diocesan family.



Did you know?

The gift we offer in our Care & Share contribution supports fundamental expenses provided by the diocese, such as legal and accounting expenses, and the Harvest newspaper and diocesan website which are vital communication ministries.

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

CONTRIBUTE TO CARE AND SHARE AUTOMATICALLY

In recent years you may have seen the following article in *The Harvest*:

"Contributions to Care and Share can be made automatically by transferring a monthly budgeted amount from your checking or savings account to a special diocesan account again this year. This method of contributing to Care and Share Appeal was introduced twelve years ago and the number of contributions using the method has increased every year. To initiate automatic withdrawals from your account, just fill out the "Authorization for Automatic Care and Share Pledge Payment" form in the Care and Share Brochure and attach a voided check or savings deposit ticket to it. Return the completed form to your parish for processing. Withdrawals will be made monthly on the date and in the amount you specify and will be reflected on your monthly bank statement. Contributions can be stopped or changed as needed by the donor upon request."

The automatic withdrawal program remains a very attractive alternative method of donating to Care and Share 2010. The Business Office has the capability to administer the automatic contribution program to Care and Share 2010 without additional banking support. In other words, the Business Office can make any change desired by the donor regarding their pledge to Care and Share 2010 without reliance on the bank. This capability permits us to be fully responsive to your parishioner's wishes. Remember that, for tax purposes, complete statements of donor contributions are made available to the parish at year-end for inclusion in your parish statements to your parishioners. As always, automatic contributions to Care and Share are reflected when received in the parish reports published in *The Harvest*.

Donors who contribute automatically to Care and Share historically contribute twelve times annually to the needs of the diocese compared to the typical parishioners who writes a one-time check to the appeal. The average contribution of the automatic donor to Care and Share now exceeds \$250 annually, while the one-time check writer contributes approximately \$25.

Please help publicize the ease and convenience of contributing automatically to Care and Share this year and encourage your parishioners to consider participation . As the number of donors using this method increases, your parish will have an easier time meeting its annual assessment to the appeal.

Request Form

Care and Share Materials

2010

Catholic Diocese of Great Falls - Billings

Request for Care and Share Materials:

A. Extra Care and Share Brochures and Envelopes:

_____ Number of extra sets for non-registered parishioners.

B. Extra Care and Share Posters:

_____ Number of extra Care and Share Posters.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Catholic Diocese of Great Falls - Billings
Attn: S. T. Westphal
P. O. Box 1399
Great Falls, MT 59403-1399

Or Fax:

1-406-454-3480

Name of Parish: _____

Address: _____

City and Zip Code: _____

Name of Pastor or Administrator: _____
