



## DIOCESE OF CHEYENNE

Office of the Bishop  
Post Office Box 1468  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1468  
(307) 638-1530  
(307) 638-4818 (fax)

+ January 14, 2010

Dear People of the Diocese of Cheyenne:

In these early days following the tragic earthquake in Haiti, we are still learning of the toll of human life and extensive destruction of property for the people of this poor country. In response, I ask for your earnest prayers on their behalf, and all who now come to their aid. Too often, we are tempted to doubt the power of our prayer, and in times like this, perhaps our greatest gift is prayer. We can pray for hope for the survivors in this time of darkness. Pray for the volunteers and agencies that are coming to the assistance of this nation. Pray for those who have died, and for those who mourn their loss.

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops has requested every parish of this country take up a second collection to sustain the relief efforts presently underway through our Catholic Relief Services. We can take great consolation in knowing that CRS is one of the most efficient non-profit agencies in the world in making sure that the highest percentage of every dollar donated goes to direct aid of those in need. CRS also has an incredible structure of personnel and volunteers already on the ground in Haiti to begin the recovery process.

Since this will be a long-term effort of relief, we will take up our collection in the Diocese of Cheyenne the weekend of January 23-24. I ask that our people be as generous as possible in their financial contributions. Our Diocesan Stewardship Committee met today to distribute this quarter's tithe to various charitable agencies. It was decided by this group to send \$15,000 to CRS as our initial donation. This is a good beginning, but I'm sure the faithful people of this good diocese will do their best to further the good work of Catholic Relief Services on our behalf, for the relief of suffering in Haiti.

Assuring all of you of my prayers, and gratitude for your faithfulness, I remain,

In The Heart of Christ,

Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne  
Bishop of Cheyenne