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Bishop's Letter of Support for Share Lent 2016
For the 3rd Sunday of Lent (Feb. 27/28th)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Our Share Lent campaign, entitled Create a Climate of Change, invites us on a pilgrimage that takes us out into the world to learn about our sisters and brothers in Haiti, Paraguay, Indonesia and the Holy Land. In the Share Lent materials, we read how our donations give much-needed life and hope. In doing so, we are carrying out the corporal works of mercy. Indeed, in this Year of Mercy, we are encouraged to “rediscover these corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead.” “Jesus introduces us to these works of mercy in his preaching so that we can know whether or not we are living as his disciples” (Papal Bull *Misericordiae Vultus* 15).

In early March, Mr. Yuli Kusworo, an architect with the organization *Arkomjogja*, is visiting our province to tell us about his work in Indonesia, supported by Development and Peace. Our Share Lent donations have supported not only the building of homes, but the establishment of caring communities. In collaboration with Development and Peace, Mr. Kusworo also has extensive experience in reconstruction after climate disasters.

To find out where he is speaking in our diocese, visit www.devp.org/en/sharelent2016/visitors.

Our Share Lent pilgrimage also brings us home to examine our own daily choices. Pope Francis has asked us to care for our common home. What hope does the earth have if we, as people of faith, do not heed the warnings of climate change? “In this Holy Year, we look forward to the experience of opening our hearts to those living on the outermost fringes of society: fringes which modern society itself creates” (MV 15). Can we courageously examine how we, in our over-consumption of energy, have been complicit in creating these fringes brought on by climate change? Can we think about how we can be merciful to our planet and to those who are the most vulnerable to climatic disasters?

Pope Francis urges us to “enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God’s mercy” (MV 15). God’s mercy reaches the poor in many ways, including through our own actions. In this season of prayer, fasting and alms-giving, we can hold one another in loving prayer, we can fast from that which hurts our planet, and we can give generously to our Share Lent collection.

May this Jubilee Year of Mercy draw us closer together as one human family.

Yours in Christ,

† Donald Bolen
Bishop of Saskatoon