

Report Given to the Archdiocese of Dubuque Regarding our Cluster Support to our Sister Parish Anse Rouge, Haiti

The Wright County Catholic Community Cluster parishes of St. Francis Xavier in Belmond, St. John in Clarion, Sacred Heart in Eagle Grove committed to a Twinning program with Our Lady of Assumption parish at Anse' Rouge, Haiti in 2003. This association is through The National Parish Twinning Program, a Catholic based program. Coordinator is Theresa Patterson parishprogram@aol.com

This Mission or Ministry helps the Poorest of the Poor. Our Hope & Prayer is that someday, they might become self-sustaining. We help to clothe, feed, & educate our brothers & sisters of Haiti, by striving to live Matthew 25.

When we originally sent sea containers, we recall photos of them unpacking in stick built huts. After having the medical supplies get confiscated at the port, we have wired money instead, or personally delivered the medical & school supplies when traveling there. Now, we are happy to see stronger, cement & stone structures for the NEW school, which WCCC has provided!! Due to tropical storms & hurricanes, they need a firm foundation. We all know that the church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.

* A Sponsorship of \$120. per year will feed a child 1 hot meal per day, (usually their only meal) & pay for tuition. It is our hope to educate & prepare young adults to become self sustaining.

* A Teacher gift is \$70. per month.

* A Building gift will help to pay for a door, desk, chair, finishing a wall, or towards building a canteen/cafeteria. Right now, the food preparation is all outside over an open fire. Someday, a real kitchen might be a dream. School wiring has not been completed yet. 3 Solar panels have been installed & the diesel generator was donated, to assist in electrical needs, for using a freezer & to charge batteries.

A visit in 2005, seeing their desperation firsthand, kicked off the start of our giving. Since our twinning has started, we have given \$173,000 to our sister parish. We have had 1 visit by the past & current Priests, Father Murat Dorcent, & Father Paul Henry Dorlean in 2008. We arranged a Tri-Lingual Mass at that time (English/Spanish & French) Last August, Father Nils Hernandez & Deacon Jerry Temeyer made a pastoral visit for the Feast of the Assumption. 10 members of the WCCC were planning a Medical Mission to our sister parish Anse' Rouge, Haiti February 3-10. We had planned to set up a clinic in the school (that we built!) for basic exams. They do not have access to medical care. Obviously, this trip could not take place as planned, but we plan to reschedule when transportation & things are more safe & secure.

We held a meaningful, ecumenical prayer service on February 3rd.

Right now, our parish community is experiencing allot more people that have fled Port Au Prince, making our food supplies diminish much faster, & 50+ extra students in the classroom also. He said the rural areas of Anse' Rouge are "Allot" of desperate victims of the earthquake. They will try a small food distribution to relieve some families that are really in need. Our gifts are very needed & appreciated. In an email last night, "I received your letter that once again prove just how you think of me despite the distance and language, thank you for this gesture of solidarity and brotherhood with me." It is very understandable how desperate & alone they must feel through all the suffering & turmoil.

Yesterday, we took 10 Confirmation students to help with Kids against Hunger, at Forest City. It was great to have the true "hands on" feeling. Over 50,000 food packs were prepared in 5 hours! We continue to pray that the outpouring of support will continue to feed & strengthen our brothers & sisters of Haiti.

By Monica Staudt, WCCC Cluster Haiti Chair