

Haiti in our Hands

Compassion and solidarity for the people of Haiti



Monthly Newsletter

April 2019

Construction of New Homes Continues

Through your generosity, we have funded the building of 27 new homes for families in our Twin Parish. Father Raymond identifies families who are in need of new homes. They meet many times to set up a timeline. The three-room replacement homes have sturdy, cement brick walls, a cement floor, a metal roof, and should withstand the next hurricane.

Father Raymond orders and picks up the needed cement, rebar and wood from Port-au-Prince using the church vehicle. The family collects rocks and sand, and contributes what labor they are capable of as their participation. Father checks on their progress along the way.



Having a home with a floor, strong walls and a roof will improve the health of a family, beyond peace of mind. We will continue to help with rebuilding efforts as money is available.

News from Chauffard:

Dear Friends:

"I am in good health with the grace of God and the mission continues very well in Chauffard. With the situation of the country, it is best to stay in the village. I thank you from my whole heart for the money you have sent for the food for the children.

The schools are going well currently. Very soon the exams will start. We are well into Lent. We are preparing for the festival of Easter. A thousand thanks for all. May God continue to bless you."

Father Louis Mary Raymond

Upcoming Events:

April 22-May 3: Sea Container Shipment: our boxed donations will be mailed to the Parish Twinning Program warehouse in Tennessee to be packed into a shipping container to be loaded onto a boat to Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

June 8: Trunk Sale 9 am - 2 pm in the upper church parking lot.

June 22-23: Haiti Speaker Weekend and Second Collection

July 13-14: Bottle & Can Drive, located in Parish Center parking lot.

For more information about any event, call Kate McMahon at 315-492-2378.

**Supporting the Church of the Immaculate Conception,
Chauffard, Haiti, Father Raymond, Parish Priest**

School Kitchen Upgrade

In December, we received a \$2,000 donation to fund an upgrade to the Chauffard school kitchen. The kitchen is a small, one-room, cement-block building where the cooks prepare the meals in large pots over small wood fires on the ground. As you can imagine, this kitchen room is smoky and hot. The women have to stoop over while they cook and lift the heavy pots off of the fires. This project is funding the construction of a stand and the cooking gas canisters it will contain, set up so that pots can be placed upon them for cooking at a comfortable height. The project will be completed during the Easter school break. What a difference this will make to the health of our kitchen staff!



Church Repair Project

We are hoping to hear soon that the grant for rebuilding the Chauffard church has been approved by The Papal Foundation. The walls of 70-year-old church are cracking and the timbers are rotting. Father Raymond wrote this month that "from day to day, the situation appears very difficult. The wood is beginning to fall a little, finally. I do not know what to do."

It is important that the church is rebuilt soon, as the parish's 70th anniversary is this June.

