

Haiti in our Hands

Compassion and solidarity for the people of Haiti



Monthly Newsletter

January 2020

New School Kitchen Completed!

The kitchen for the Chauffard school has long needed an overhaul. The cooks have prepared meals in big pots over fire on the ground for years. They had to bend over as they cooked the meal and lift the heavy pots off the ground. The small room was always smoky and the walls were blacked by soot.

Father Raymond had put together a proposal for improvement and, last winter, we received a \$2,000 donation for the project. The plan was to enlarge the structure and improve ventilation. For the cooking area, gas cylinders would be purchased and two metal frameworks be constructed to create two cooktop areas of three places each allowing the women to prepare the meals over a gas fire while standing at a comfortable level.

Over the summer holidays, the kitchen was enlarged and repainted and the other supplies were purchased. The six bags of cement cost \$43 and the sand \$11 to build walls. Repainting cost \$132 for the paint and \$44 for the labor. \$549 was the cost to purchase and fill the 2 new 100 liter gas tanks. All the metal tubing and connections and framing for the cooking stations came out as \$769. We can imagine how much this improves the quality of life for the lunch cooks!



Father Raymond (far right) pictured in front of the new cooktops in the updated Chauffard school kitchen

News from Chauffard:

Father Raymond has welcomed Father Jean Rosenet Destine to Chauffard. Father Destine is a newly ordained priest. He has been placed in the parish of the Church of the Immaculate Conception for a year of training to assist Father Raymond and learn from him.

The parish is quite isolated so another person to discuss community concerns and religious matters with will be a great help to Father Raymond. Remember this community includes the Chauffard church and chapels in five nearby villages.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, February 6

Painting with a Purpose Party, \$35

Register online:

www.paintingwithatwist.com/studio/syracuse-dewitt/event/2124326/

Saturday, March 7: **Chicken & Biscuit Dinner** in Church Hall, 4-7 pm

March 21-April 5: **Collection for Sea Container Shipment-** toiletries and basic medical supplies

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**

Help from the United Kingdom

Many thanks to Haiti In Our Hands friend Joseph McCullagh for running the Yorkshire Marathon on October 20, 2019 to raise vital funds for the school lunch program. He collected a fantastic 2061 pounds (over \$2,600)! Joseph lives in the UK, but has been supporting Chauffard since his 2011 Medical Mission trip with us and his cousin, Martin Tierney. Since then, Joseph has volunteered on two other Medical Missions and visited Chauffard once on a Spring visit with Deacon Greg Cross. He also maintains our Haiti In Our Hands website. Joseph and Martin coordinate the UK branch of Haiti In Our Hands. They raise money mainly for the school lunch program.

This was Joseph's first marathon. He trained well and finished in a respectable under 3 hours 30 minutes. Joseph said it was the hardest thing he's ever done and he's driven on the "road" to Chauffard! We appreciate all those who sponsored Joseph.



2020 Wish List for Chauffard



\$1,500 US for car repairs to the only parish vehicle
FUNDED - Thank you!

But we still need money for:

\$165 for one new battery for the parish solar panels (24 batteries needed)

The current batteries are over five years old and don't work. The entire solar set up is 15 years old. Solar power is used for lighting in the school, clinic and parish offices/rectory, and electricity in the same buildings so Father Raymond and the teachers can charge their computers and phones, and to power the refrigerator.

\$2,400 US to repair the generator OR \$9,500 US to purchase a new one
The buildings use a generator for electricity when the solar power runs out.