

# Haiti in our Hands

Compassion and solidarity for the people of Haiti



## Monthly Newsletter

## November 2020

### The COVID-19 Pandemic in Haiti

As COVID-19 began spreading across the world, there was great concern over how developing nations could inform their citizens about prevention and provide treatment. There are 25 doctors per 100,000 people in Haiti. Only 4 hospitals could produce oxygen and there were about 60 functioning ventilators in the country as the pandemic arrived. Only one lab was able to process the tests. The airport and sea ports closed so it was impossible to acquire supplies. There were shortages. Prices skyrocketed and are just starting to come down a little. There is increased food insecurity and concern that the hurricane season will lead to a famine.

The people in our Twin Parish do not have electricity or running water. They live with many people in small homes. Social distancing and proper hand washing are not as easy to follow there. Father Raymond writes that the community of Chauffard is well-informed about



COVID-19 through the radio and that there have not been any cases there. The total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Haiti, as of October 19, 2020, was 8,925 with 231 deaths. The number of cases has been decreasing over the past 6 weeks.

### News from Chauffard:

“The situation is difficult with the damage caused by the last hurricane. We do not know what to do. The gardens are devastated. The animals are killed. There was. . . the loss of human life. There are people who have lost their homes. The road leading to Chauffard is cut. The people have tried to find a passage but it is not yet normal. A thousand thanks for all that you are for us. You have sustained us until the end. May God continue to bless you.”

*Father Raymond, parish priest, in August*

### Upcoming Events:

**November** Giving Day Fund Drive

**December 2-9:** Medical Mission  
CANCELLED

**January 9 & 10, 2021:** Bottle & Can Drive

For more information about any event,  
call Kate McMahon at 315-214-1569.

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

## Reconstruction of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Chauffard

Construction continues on the rebuilding project to replace the original church building for the Immaculate Conception parish in Chauffard. The structure was built in 1949 and the rotted timbers and cracked walls have been in danger of collapsing for a couple of years now. Repairs could no longer hold the building together. Father Raymond had plans drawn up and went around collecting estimates for how much the supplies would cost. Incredibly, the Church of the Immaculate Conception could be rebuilt and improved for just \$37,500! Unfortunately, it took until fall of 2019 for us to raise that amount and prices had skyrocketed due to shortages brought on by political protests and civil unrest. Then the COVID-19 pandemic came and the interruptions in trade increased scarcity on this small island nation for all imported products. Prices increased over 50% and many items could not be found for any cost.

On July 30, 2020, Father Raymond wrote, “We are almost finished with putting up all the walls. We have put up the roof supports. The old church was truly in a bad state. We could really save nothing from it. Just about all the wood was rotted. The walls were reduced completely to dust. Praise God alone that she did not fall. We are in the process of making a very solid construction and the people of the community are very content. Today, not having enough money has obliged us to stop working.”

In September, we received a generous \$10,000 donation towards completing the church reconstruction. Father Raymond wrote on October 8th: “The construction of the church is advancing a great deal. We have already begun with the roof. All is well. The prices of the construction materials have lowered a bit, the money that you sent will allow us to finish about 90% of the work.” We hope to be able to raise enough money this year to fulfill our \$6,000 monthly commitment to the school lunch program and finish the reconstruction of the church.



*As of July of 2020, the walls and roof supports of the new church were in place. Builders are currently working on finishing the roof, but we still need more funds to complete the project.*

