

# Haiti in our Hands

Compassion and solidarity for the people of Haiti



## Monthly Newsletter

## June 2022

### School Lunches Make a Difference



Rose Desir is a Haitian working for the United Nations. She grew up in northern Haiti and received hot meals through a not-for-profit agency's school lunch program, like the one we provide. Ms. Desir wrote an article for the UN printed on March 26, 2022. In it she said, "I was fortunate as I attended a school where [the not-for-profit agency] provided free hot meals to children. I received these meals from the age of 5 or 6 to 12 years old. My brother, who is 5 years younger than me, did not get school meals, so I went to the kitchen after all the children had eaten and asked to take some food home for him."

"On the weekend, we did not receive those hot meals, so we sometimes didn't eat, so I know what it's like to be hungry. And I understood how much more difficult it was to study on an empty stomach. My mother, a teacher, spent all the money she had on sending her children to school. It made me realize how important [not-for-profit agencies] are for my family and for my country." The school year is coming to a close here, and for the students at the five schools run by our Twin Parish in Haiti. Please pray for the children who may go hungry during the summer months while our school lunch program funded by your donations is paused.

### News from Chauffard:

"I have news of the Toyota Landcruiser. The customs clearance is already beginning. With the situation of the country, it will take more time, but we hope to have it soon. I will keep you informed. I thank you very much again one time more. The doctors, Fleurgins and Henry, work full time in the clinic. They are there every day. Two young doctors who give themselves completely."

**Father Raymond**, parish priest 4/20/22

### Upcoming Events:

**June 18-19:** Haiti Speaker and annual Second Collection

**July 9-10:** Bottle & Can Drive in Velasko Road parking lot

**August 24:** Doug's-to-Go, 11am to 6pm in Velasko Road parking lot

For more information, call **Kate McMahan** at 315-214-1569.

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

## Hunger Continues in Haiti



A Chauffard resident feeds his chickens. Most of the people in the area are subsistence farmers and very few own livestock.

The USDA defines food insecurity as ‘a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food.’ This May, the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti published a paper about ‘The Right to Food in Haiti.’ It says, “Today, Haiti has one of the highest levels of food insecurity in the world- in 2020, around 4.6 million in Haiti (over 40% of the population) required emergency food assistance. Recent predictions from the United Nations World Food Programme estimate that the number of Haitian people living in severe food insecurity could rise from 700,000 to 1.6 million following the COVID-19 outbreak. . . Approximately 50% of the population is undernourished.”

In April the not-for-profit Raising Haiti sent out an “Open Letter About Food Aid to Haiti” which reads in part: “The world appears to be on the precipice of a global food crisis of historic proportions. While years in the making, it has been triggered by the war in Ukraine disrupting crucial grain exports. Whereas nations the world over will face this new crisis while still reeling from the pandemic, economic disruption and supply chain slowdowns, Haiti will have the added burden of responding in the midst of political instability and the aftermath of the August 2021 earthquake in the southern region.

“The United Nations has warned that close to half of Haiti’s entire population will be confronting severe hunger no later than June, with 1.3 million Haitians one step further to the emergency stage of hunger which is just short of outright famine. This is the result of the domestic situation in Haiti even before the added pressures of a global food crisis, which will then further exacerbate the situation as international food prices continue to spiral. This will have a disproportionate effect on a country like ours [Haiti] that imports approximately 40 percent of its food.”

The World Food Program sends food donations to needy communities and refugee camps. A spokesperson there described how, with fewer food donations available, they are going to be taking food destined for the hungry to give to the starving. The families of the Church of the Immaculate Conception parish in Chauffard and the surrounding villages are just getting by. They are mainly small plot farmers. Pray that the growing season goes well and they have a good harvest. This year it will be more important than ever.



A young woman in Chauffard sells bananas from her family's plot.