

# Haiti in our Hands

Compassion and solidarity for the people of Haiti



## Monthly Newsletter

March 2021

### Making It Work

Our volunteers returning from a visit to Chauffard always remark that in Haiti you may not have all you need and your day may not go as planned, but everyone pulls together to make it work. During the international pandemic this year, we are working through our challenges here in Syracuse to make it work that we can continue to support our friends in Chauffard. We have a number of ways you can help. There is going to be a **Sea Container Shipment** in April!

**We are collecting:** cloth face masks, reading glasses, chewable and adult vitamins, Tums, pain relievers, band aids, antibacterial ointment, hydrocortisone, toothpaste, toothbrushes, pencils, pencil sharpeners, and pens.



Donations are needed by April 11th.

The April 10 and 11 weekend is our next **Bottle & Can Drive**. Please save your refundables to drop off to us in the church parking lot. So many people have asked about our annual **Chicken & Biscuit Dinner** that we are going to make it work as a Take-Out Only meal. Watch for our Sign Up link on the church website. Thank you for all the ways you help make this commitment to support our Twin Parish work!

### News from Chauffard:

“Here in Chauffard all is going well except for the political situation of the country which promises to be difficult in the coming days. No case of Covid-19 in Chauffard so far, by the grace of God. A big thank you from all my heart to the people of the Church of St. Michael and St. Peter for your dedication and generosity, your patience and your sense of always doing the right things. May God never cease to fill you with yet more blessings.”

*Father Raymond, Parish Priest*

### Upcoming Events:

**February 24 - March 31:** Lenten  
“Soup Supper” donations

**March 20 - April 11:** Collection of items for  
Sea Container Shipment

**April 10 - 11:** Bottle & Can Drive

**April 24:** Take Out Chicken & Biscuit Dinner  
4:30-6:30 pm

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**

## Leading the Faithful in Chauffard

Since 2013, Father Louise Marie Raymond has been the priest of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Chauffard. Father Raymond was born in L'Arcahaie, north-west of Port-au-Prince, along the coast. Coming from a family of nine children, he was the third. Though Father Raymond's father died in 2012, his mother is still living.

He was ordained a priest on December 27, 2009 at the grand cathedral of Port-au-Prince. The cathedral was destroyed during the terrible earthquake of January 12, 2010. He served as vicar (his training year) in the parish of Saint Croix de Fonds-Verrettes and in the parish of Notre Dame du Rosaire in the Croix-des-Bouquets. This was east of Port-au-Prince along a main road.

In Father Raymond's own words, "Since July 2013, I have been sent to and work with the parishioners of Chauffard. This year gives me 46 years of life on earth. I thank the Lord for all he has done for me." Father Raymond is tasked with leading masses and church events not only at Immaculate Conception,

but at chapels in five nearby villages. He also oversees the running of the five schools and coordinates the school lunch program, even ordering and picking up the food stores in the community's only vehicle. The medical clinic in Chauffard is also his responsibility.



*Father Destine*

Last year, Father Destine was working in Chauffard for his training year, helping Father Raymond. Now that he is ordained, Father Destine is leaving for another parish. Happily, abbe Savio, has now arrived in Chauffard to serve as the trainee of the parish under Father Raymond. Abbe Savio was born in Duval, in the heights of Port-au-Prince. Just like Father Raymond and Father Destine, he is the son of peasants, not from a wealthy family. His mother and father are both still living. They brought into the world six children, abbe Savio being the 5th. After his secondary studies, the abbe entered the Grande Seminaire Notre Dame d'Haiti, where he studied philosophy for two years and theology for four years. Father Raymond wrote that, "He succeeded with great success. Given his competence and his know-how, he was appointed to Chauffard for his internship before being ordained deacon and priest for the mission of the Church. Today, he is 31 years old. He has started well here with the faithful. He adapts well with the community."

We look forward to meeting abbe Savio!

*Father Raymond*

