

# Haiti in our Hands

Compassion and solidarity for the people of Haiti



## Monthly Newsletter

March 2025

### Lenten Soup Suppers

Almsgiving, fasting and prayer are given to us as the three ancient practices of Lent. “Do not turn your face away from any of the poor, and God’s face will not be turned away from you. Give alms in proportion to what you own. If you have great wealth, give alms out of your abundance; if you have but little, distribute even some of that. But do not hesitate to give alms. . .” (Tobit 4:7-8) As in past years, there is a free will offering at the Monday Lenten soup suppers that will go towards the needs of our twin parish, the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Chauffard, Haiti. The parishioners there are struggling to find food for their families.

In 2005, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace wrote, “The universal destination of goods requires that the poor and those whose living conditions interfere with their proper growth should be the focus of particular concern. To this end, the preferential option for the poor should be reaffirmed in all its force. . . It affects the life of each Christian inasmuch as he or she seeks to imitate the life of Christ, but it applies equally to our social responsibilities and hence to our manner of living. . .” Please consider a Lenten gift in support of our brothers and sisters in Chauffard, Haiti.



Children in Chauffard

#### News from Chauffard:

This year marks the 25th anniversary of our twin relationship with the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Please say a special prayer for our brothers and sisters in our twin parish as the political instability in the country has reached Chauffard. See the back of the newsletter for more information. Thank you for your prayers.

#### Upcoming Events:

**March 24:** Soup Supper, SMSP

**April 18:** Doug’s To Go, SMSP parking lot

**April 25-27:** Book & Bake Sale, SMSP  
Bottle & Can Drive, SMSP

For more information about any events or to volunteer, call **Kate McMahan** at 315-214-1569.

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

# Haitian Unrest Reaches Our Twin Parish

As we have reported, the political situation in Haiti has been very unstable since the assassination of their President in July of 2021. Since then, armed gangs have taken over sections of the country, especially near the capital of Port au Prince. Our twin parish of Chuauffard is located in a mountainous region outside the capital city. Until recently, the area around Chuauffard has been relatively safe. However, Kenscoff - the closest town to Chuauffard - was attacked in late January/early February. Now the schools in Chuauffard are closed as the village lives in fear.

**January 28, 2025 from Father Raymond:** "Chuauffard's news is extremely sad. The bandits have come upon us, we don't know what to do. Chuauffard's situation is really complicated at the moment. Many people are being killed in the surrounding areas. We are afraid for the days to come. The police cannot get to Chuauffard and are powerless in the face of situations. Only God can deliver us. As I write this message, the bursts of bullets are being heard."

**January 29, 2025 by Johnny Fils-Aime of the Miami Herald:** "Since Monday, a coalition of armed gangs in Haiti have waged war on mountaintop communities above Port-au-Prince. Local officials say gangs set fire to homes and killed farmers and livestock. Three days after the siege began, residents continued to live in fear. . ."

**February 4, 2025 by Evens Sanon of the AP:** "It's been eight days since Kenscoff has been under attack," said Mayor Jean Massillon, saying gunmen are going home to home and indiscriminately opening fire. "As we speak, they have surrounded the area," Massillon said. The dead include pastors, teachers, and children. . . Many victims are working-class people who tend crops on the outskirts of the neighborhood in the foothills of a mountain range. . . The attack on Kenscoff that began January 27 has left more than 1,660 people homeless, according to the International Organization for Migration.

**February 12, 2025 from Father Raymond:** "The surrounding areas are attacked by bandits who kill, burn and steal the property of the peasants. We are in agony. Given the situation, I am forced to close the doors of the schools. People are scared. Every day, they receive threats and the state authorities have done nothing to remedy this unparalleled savagery. I'm still in Chuauffard. They didn't attack me, thank God. I do my job as usual. The church operates as usual. Armed men are everywhere, in every corner and only spread terror. The priest of Bongars and the priest of Godet have left. Only I remain who find it impossible to leave, but I'm here alive. The health clinic operates. The agronomist continues his work with the tree nursery. We are waiting for better days for our country. Thank you so much. May God fill you with all his graces."

**February 19, 2025 from Father Raymond:** "We are all here. So far, God's gaze protects us from the wicked. We thank you very much for your prayers and the Mass. A big thank you to Father Galuppi for praying for us in Chuauffard. Union in prayer!!"



**The residents of Chuauffard wait outside the health clinic in happier times.**