

# Haiti in our Hands

Compassion and solidarity for the people of Haiti



## Monthly Newsletter

June 2021

### Financial Report

During this challenging year, your generosity has been astonishing. The sea container shipment and medical mission were cancelled. The schools in Chauffard were closed for about three months. Here in Syracuse, the Church of St. Michael and St. Peter was closed for close to three months, yet we still managed to wire \$78,250 in monetary support to our Twin Parish. That amount includes \$27,716 sent specifically for rebuilding the Church of the Immaculate Conception and \$1,500 for car repairs. The majority of the rest of the money went to the school lunch



program (\$5,000 a month) and teacher/staff salaries (\$1,000 a month) when school was in session. \$13,264 came from fundraisers. The three Bottle & Can Drives alone brought in \$5,769! The Chicken & Biscuit dinner raised \$2,604 and the Fall Book Sale earned \$2,063. \$1,286 came in from the Trunk Sale. The last three events were the Pasta Party (\$337), Lenten Soup Suppers (\$260 from two suppers), and the Painting for a Purpose Party with Painting With a Twist (\$878). The rest was donations.

### News from Chauffard:

Twenty years ago, when our twinning relationship began, we received emails from the Church of the Immaculate Conception parish priest Father Estiverne now and then. Today, Kate McMahon communicates regularly with current priest, Father Raymond, via WhatsApp on her phone. She still has to write to him in French and translate his responses for others, but it is very quick. He can take a photo or video and send it to Kate and it appears in Kate's photo file which makes them very easy to share.

### Upcoming Events:

**June 12-13:** Haiti Speaker weekend  
& Second Collection

**July 10-11:** 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**

## Help from Food for the Poor



The Parish Twinning Program of the Americas has always spoken highly of the humanitarian work that Food For the Poor (FFTP) does in Haiti. FFTP has projects including installing pumps, building homes, and donating school supplies, animals and food mainly in the Caribbean and Latin America. They have seen a sharp rise in malnutrition in Haiti because of coronavirus. As they write on their website, “Haiti is dealing with lingering violence and protests, sparked last year by people upset with the government over inflation, and food and fuel shortages.” In response to this crisis, FFTP launched a Food Distribution Project with the Parish Twinning Program. Churches with Twin Parishes in Haiti were able to donate \$2,000 to FFTP that was matched with an additional \$2,000 of FFTP donations to give each parish \$4,000 worth of rice and beans.

How much rice and beans can \$4,000 buy? Not as much as it could two years ago, but it’s still 100 bags of rice at 99 pounds per bag (9,900 pounds of rice!) and 38 bags of beans at 110 pounds per bag (4,180 pounds of beans!)

FFTP tries to buy food supplies in-country, but they informed participating parishes that for this project they had to “purchase large sea containers of rice and beans from Guyana and Brazil to supplement their Haiti warehouse inventory.” They wrote that another unexpected challenge was, “a series of events caused by the pandemic has led to a severe container shortage. Many businesses and organizations. . . are facing difficulty in securing sea containers and costs have increased as a result.” Because of the purchasing and shipping challenges, FFTP was forced to stagger the food distribution over three months instead of sending all the life-saving food as soon as possible.

The supplies for our Twin Parish will arrive in Haiti in June. Father Raymond will be called by the FFTP office in Port-au-Prince. A time will be scheduled for Father Raymond to drive to their warehouse to pick up the sacks of rice and beans. How many car loads will it take to move 14,080 pounds of rice and beans?

*Photos of local Chauffard villagers & schoolchildren by photographer Tara Polcaro*

