

Haiti in our Hands

Compassion and solidarity for the people of Haiti



Monthly Newsletter

December 2020

Bottle & Can Recycling to the Rescue!

How can we hold fundraisers to support our Twin Parish during an international pandemic when staying apart saves lives? **The answer: contactless bottle & can drives!** Many of our usual events are not possible and we have a commitment to send \$5,000 a month so Father Raymond can buy the supplies for the school lunch program. He is still counting on us for another \$1,000 a month to pay the 11 lunch cooks, 5 kitchen managers, and 31 school teachers. Please save your refundable bottles and cans for our January 9 and 10 collection. We plan to hold one every three months. You can drop your donations at the trailer in the church parking lot or just open your trunk and our volunteers will take out your bags. Every 5 cents is needed now as prices remain higher than usual because of shortages brought on from the pandemic. Father Raymond sent me examples of current prices that I compared to the costs in his school lunch expenses report from last year.



Father Raymond usually buys 150 sacks of rice for the month. That purchase price has increased by \$218. If he wanted to buy the typical 60 sacks of cornmeal, he would pay \$785 more! The cost of 45 sacks of dried peas has skyrocketed by \$937! Father Raymond is having to make changes in the school lunch menu to stretch your donations as far as he can. Thank you for your continued support.

News from Chauffard:

"The priest-in-training who has been working here this past year, Jean Rosenet DESTINE, will be ordained on December 26 at the transitional cathedral of Port-au-Prince. Even if he remains with us, another trainee has already been appointed by our Archbishop in Chauffard. His name is Savio ESTERNE. He is already here, working with Deacon Jean Rosenet at the school."

Father Raymond, Parish Priest

Upcoming Events:

December 2-9: Medical Mission
CANCELLED

January 9 & 10, 2021: Bottle & Can Drive

March 12-14, 2021: Book Sale

April 10-11, 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**

Missing the Medical Mission



Nurse Cynthia Allis with patient

As the time for this year's Medical Mission approached, our volunteers who were scheduled to go expressed how sad they were to miss this opportunity. More and more friends who had served on past Medical Missions started talking about how much their time there had meant to them. We are planning for a 2021 Medical Mission. We hope to send money so Father Raymond can hire a Haitian doctor to come to work in the Chauffard clinic a few times this year.

Nurse Darline Brown said, "During my trip to Chauffard in 2016, I was blown away by the resilience of the people; some of them walked for hours to get to the clinic. This experience reminded me to appreciate everything I have and not complain about things I wish I had."

Nurse Pat Sovocool said, "On my two medical missions to Haiti, I returned feeling blessed. For such a profound impact the beautiful people of Haiti had on me. They truly live simplistically. We here live in over-abundance."

Doctor Jerry McMahon who has served on all nine of our Medical Missions wrote, "I regard it as a privilege to be able to go to Haiti and work with the Haitians of this remote area. It is wonderful to learn about the stories of their lives. Their gratitude for small things strikes me and has helped me become more thankful for my blessings. In pondering the way they live, I have become less worried about the difficulties of daily life, and less troubled by the daily news flow of the media."

Nurse Cynthia Allis who has volunteered on five Medical Mission trips said, "Returning each year to Chauffard, a remote village with primitive housing and no electricity or running water, feels like a homecoming. We are welcomed by the people with open arms, loving hearts and sincere gratitude. It is humbling and rewarding to be a part of their lives."

Physician's Assistant Brittany Crawford who served on one Medical Mission said, "Just to show them that there are people across the world who care and want to help. The entire journey is worth it if we can alleviate some suffering for even one or two patients for just one of their ailments. To be able to bring them the basic supplies that we take for granted in order to lessen their suffering is a blessing."

Joseph McCullagh, who has made four trips to Chauffard, said "My lasting impression of Chauffard is just how tough the daily routine is for a Haitian person. It is long, arduous and filled with hunger. No one should be hungry in this world. I remember how resilient and grateful the people of Chauffard are and how deserving they are of any help I can give them. For in return, they help teach me what is important in life. In Haiti, there is unimaginable poverty on America's doorstep. We are called by God to love our neighbor as ourselves."

Ligory Fernandes, who started the Haiti Committee and was on our first visit to Chauffard, said, "People in Chauffard are very kind and appreciative of the help we have given them. They do not complain and lead very simple lives. Life is difficult but we have to give them hope it will change for the better. Pope Francis said we have to prioritize serving the poor and the marginalized instead of blaming each other for the failure of our efforts."

Nurse Louise Hayes volunteered on two Medical Missions with us. She said, "The patients walked barefoot through mud, rocks, water-- just to see a doctor. They waited hours in line after they walked hours to get there. I saw so much devastation, it was hard to cope. How can we be surrounded by such beauty and have this much poverty? We need to look beyond our neighborhoods and see the pain and suffering around us so we can truly be uplifted to help others and find the true meaning in Christmas."



Dr. Jerry McMahon and a translator speak with a patient