

# Haiti in our Hands

Compassion and solidarity for the people of Haiti



## Monthly Newsletter

March 2020

### A Personal Connection

The Parish Twinning Program of the Americas emphasizes the importance to visiting your Twin Parish and hosting the priest of your Twin Parish here in the US. Their website says, "Visits to the sister parish are strongly encouraged. These trips to visit your sister parish, the pastor and the community can be a great joy, an adventure and an extraordinary learning experience. They provide firsthand experience to view the needs of the people, their customs, culture and visits increase understanding and awareness. They keep your relationship alive and viable. They are invaluable in helping to determine just what additional projects you may wish to pursue with your sister parish. Visitations from the pastor of your Twin Parish also help to create a deepening bond and make it very real and personal."

Our twinning relationship began in 2000 and the parish Church, Rectory and school for the Church of the Immaculate Conception had been built in 1948. Once we had raised the funds for the parish to purchase a new all-wheel drive vehicle in 2005, we hoped to make a visit to Chauffard. However, the Rectory was very small with just one bedroom that served as the priest's office as well. The roof and walls were in disrepair. The priest at that time wrote about not being able to lie down to sleep when it was raining and he worried about the church records being ruined. It was not safe to spend the night there. Through a matching grant from Catholic Relief Services, we raised enough money to rebuild the Rectory in 2007. Fall 2008 was our first visit to our Twin Parish. Ligory Fernandes, Jerry McMahon, the Deacon's daughter, Catherine, and Deacon Greg Cross (all pictured, right) represented our parish. Since then, we visited ten more times.



### News from Chauffard:

"For me and the faithful of Chauffard, all is well by the grace of God. It is only that the situation of the country worsens day by day. We try to adapt ourselves to each moment. Now the prices of the most necessary products are increasing more, but I make it work that the children will always have a little something to eat. I thank you infinitely for all your good works. We have organized the mobile clinic with Dr. Ralph. He came accompanied by another doctor (Dr. Etienne Junior). Faced with the gravity of certain cases, Dr. Ralph sees the necessity of continuing the mission at the minimum of every two months." *Father Raymond*

### Upcoming Events:

Wednesdays March 4 - April 8:  
**Lenten Soup Suppers** in Church Hall, 6 pm  
Free Will Offerings go to our Twin Parish

March 21-April 5: **Collection for Sea Container Shipment-** toiletries and basic medical supplies

For more information about any event, call Kate McMahon at 315-492-2378.

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