

Haiti in our Hands

Compassion and solidarity for the people of Haiti



Monthly Newsletter

September 2019

School is Back in Session in Chauffard

In July, Father Raymond wrote, "It was a good school year. We give thanks to the Lord and to you who have sustained us. Through your favor, each student during the year could find a hot meal each day. May God continue to bless you in abundance." Now the four schools are open again.

The hot lunch meal can be provided for only \$50 per student for the school year. The weekly lunch menu for the 1,000 students is as follows: Monday; Rice with beans and dried fish. Tuesday; Corn meal with beans and dried fish. Wednesday; Spaghetti with tomato paste and dried fish. Thursday; Rice with beans and dried fish. Friday; porridge. On Thursdays and Fridays, the pre-school students also receive a breakfast of corn flakes with instant milk. For one month, Father Raymond buys in Port-au-Prince: 70 sacks of rice, 20 sacks of dried beans, 12 5-gallon bottles of oil, 20 sacks of corn meal, 30 cases of spaghetti, 24 boxes of dried salmon, 2 boxes of tomato paste, 3 sacks of dried milk powder, and more.

Chauffard has the largest school. There were 444 students enrolled in 13 classes (including 2 pre-school classes) last year. In contrast, the school in Bois-d'Orme offers only 4 classes currently with 129 students attending. In total, there are 30 teachers, 11 lunch cooks, and 5 kitchen managers for the schools. The lunch cooks are paid less than \$8 a month. We wish we could pay everyone more, but raising \$6,000 per month for 10 months of the year to fund the school lunches, kitchen staff salaries and to supplement the teachers' salaries is more than we can manage some months.

News from Chauffard:

From Father's July letter:

"We are confronted by a number of difficulties in the parish. Almost everything is broken: the parish truck (with the state of the road), the generator (8 years old), and the batteries for the inverter (5 years old). What is there to do? We are almost in the dark."

Father Louis Mary Raymond

Upcoming Events:

October 19 & 20

Book & Bake Sale in the Church Hall

Hours: Saturday 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

October 20 - November 3

Collection of basic medical supplies: vitamins, pain relievers, Tums, soap, reading glasses, rosaries and prayer cards welcome.

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

Meet the Staff at the Church of the Immaculate Conception



Chauffard clinic nurses and lab technician.

The Rectory is where Father Raymond lives and it serves as the parish office. There is one cook/housekeeper for the Rectory. The Church of the Immaculate Conception also employs one driver for the parish and one security guard for the property. Many of the teachers stay in an annex building behind the Rectory during the week and go home to their families for the weekends. Sister Anne Marie lives in the annex.

With his annual report, Father Raymond wrote: "These are all the people who work within the parish and draw a monthly salary, a little bit to care for them. This does not count some widows, widowers, orphans, and some impoverished families who come at every instant asking for things at the Rectory. I thank you from all my heart once again for your daily donations. I ask that God continues to bless you."

Among the 30 teachers at the four schools, we have Mr. Surin teaching preschool in Chauffard and Mrs. Alphonse teaching preschool in the Bois-d'Orme school. The Chauffard school has Mr. Dieubenit as the instructor for 6th grade while Mrs. Occean is the 3rd grade instructor at the Procy school. There are five school lunch cooks and two kitchen managers at the Chauffard school, as it is the largest. The schools in Laval, Bois-d'Orme and Procy each have only two cooks and one manager.

There are six staff members at the clinic, our other main focus for support. Sister Anne Marie Joseph coordinates the pharmacy while Merline Julien is the laboratory technician. The two nurses are Erlande Phaton and Beatrice Dorrilus. Viergelie Joseph is the cleaner for the clinic and Anestin Anestil does the yard work and repairs.



Sister Anne Marie Joseph and medical mission volunteer Susan Wulff.