

Haiti in our Hands

Compassion and solidarity for the people of Haiti



Monthly Newsletter

December 2018

Pressing Needs!

Thanks to your generosity, we send \$6,000 every month school is in session to pay for the \$5,000 a month school lunch program at the 5 schools and \$1,000 a month to supplement the 35 teachers' salaries. This fall, we also spent around \$14,000 for the medical mission on medicines and supplies, Haitian staff salaries, room & board, and rental cars.

Spring 2019 brings the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Chauffard. Incredibly, that means the actual church building in Chauffard will be 70 years old in a few months. Anyone who has seen the building in the past few years can tell you about the cracks in the walls and the rotted ceiling timbers. The foundation is in good shape, but the walls and roof must be rebuilt. This holiday season, please consider a donation to support these projects. Your money can do so much good!



The walls of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Chauffard are cracking and the timbers are rotting. The church is 70 years old and in need of many repairs.

News from Chauffard:

Dear Friends: I haven't words to explain my joy for your presence with us. You must know your visit is written in our heart. Never forget that your names are written in God's book. You are the good heart and you prove it coming to Chauffard. Your acts are very extraordinary. I hope you keep courage to come back again to Chauffard. Thank you for your courage, patience and determination. Thank you for your love and your help to support the community of Chauffard. Every one who is there at the Church of St. Michael and St. Peter, thank you again and I love you. I promise you to pray for you. I carry you in my heart. Transmit my greeting to your family for me. God bless you!

Father Louis Mary Raymond

Upcoming Events:

January 5-6: **Bottle & Can Drive** collection in the parish center parking lot of the Church of St. Michael & St. Peter. Saturday all day and Sunday from 7:30-4. Please call Kate at 315-492-2378 to arrange for a pick up of your bottles and cans.

January 12: **Pasta Party** Saturday 6-8 pm in the Church Hall.

February 2: **Kids' Carnival for Haiti** Saturday from 11-3 in the Parish Center.

For more information on any of the events, call Kate McMahon at 315-492-2378.

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

Medical Mission 2018



Our 9th medical mission to Chauffard took place from November 14-21, 2018. Volunteers from Canada and New York State joined with Haitian nurses, Dr. Ralph, and translators to serve over 1,100 patients during 3 busy clinic days. We had 6 returning volunteers and another family pair: nurse Pat Sovocool and her daughter, pharmacy student Rosie Sovocool.

The year-old clinic building was a pleasure to work in. The Mission was scheduled for a week later in November than

in past years to try to avoid the rains and the trouble that they cause with mud along the rough track they travel to reach Chauffard. There was still mud, however, and the 30 mile drive from Port-au-Prince to the village took 9 hours! In the future, Father Raymond is planning projects to improve the route and reforestation of some areas.

Our Guest Dony

We were so happy to welcome our dedicated translator of many years, Dony Pierre-Louis, to Syracuse for a visit in October. He stayed with different Haiti Committee members, saw snow for the first time, visited a local school, went on a boat tour in the 1,000 Islands, picked apples and pumpkins, and ate at many different restaurants. Dony is hard-working, kind, intelligent, and cannot find full-time employment in Haiti.

Of his trip to Central New York, Dony said, "I had my best vacation. It is my first vacation, but I believe it will stay the best one because I got to spend a little time with each of you and I really felt like I was at home with you. Big thanks to all of you, for your participation in that. To everyone who wanted to send a gift to my son and wife, I am so grateful for your gifts. I am lucky to know all of you. Thank you so much. May God continue to bless all of you and your families."

