

Haiti in our Hands

Compassion and solidarity for the people of Haiti



Monthly Newsletter

Kids' Carnival for Haiti

On Saturday, January 28, the Haiti Committee transformed the Parish Center of the Church of St. Michael and St. Peter into a colorful playland for the Kids' Carnival for Haiti. Our delicious baked goods included cookies, candy apples, chocolate-covered pretzels, fanciful cupcakes, small cheesecakes, and caramel corn. There were games for all ages: a bounce house, obstacle course, ping pong, ring toss, bean bag toss, target practice and more. In the arcade, you could test your skills on a life-sized Operation Game, play pin ball, foosball and other games. Everyone wanted to try to knock down milk bottles and toss the ping pong balls into the floating bowls. Every \$10 game ticket (good for 20 games) would pay for 2 students' school lunches for a month!



Thanks to all our volunteers who stayed to help clean up after the Kids' Carnival for Haiti.

At the end of the event, nurse Louise Hayes, who has served on Medical Missions to Chauffard, presented Haiti Committee Chairperson Kate McMahon with a generous \$500 donation from the Excellus CNY Leadership Development Association.

News from Chauffard:

Father Raymond wrote on January 11: "The Church of Chauffard is in bad condition. It is an old construction of more than 70 years. The earthquake of 12 January seriously shook it. The Church is cracked and damaged all over and the wood which is underneath is rotten, finished. I have been afraid that the church will collapse at any moment. This is why I do not want to do work to last a few days. This construction deserves to be strengthened with care and appreciation for a work solid and of long duration."

Upcoming Events:

February & March: Collection for Sea Container Shipment (see back for details)

March 3, 4-7 pm: Chicken & Biscuit Dinner in church hall

March 23 - 25: Book & Bake Sale

For more information, call Kate McMahon (315-492-2378).

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

100 Weddings in Chauffard

For months, Father Raymond has been meeting with 100 couples from Chauffard and the neighboring villages who would like to be married in the church. In this Year of the Family, we would like to help him celebrate marriage and the family. Father Raymond says these are very poor people, "lacking in everything." He would like to provide nice clothes to some of the people and organize a reception to follow the ceremony. "The occasion will also offer to all the people the opportunity to retake their first communion. The community has a good welcome to the idea and this will be a beautiful party on the earth and in heaven." We are accepting donations to help pay for the wedding reception and outfits.

Collection for Sea Container Shipment

For the months of February and March, we are collecting items to send in the April sea container shipment. Here in Syracuse, we pack boxes of needed items and mail them to Tennessee where the Parish Twinning Program of the Americas loads all the boxes into the shipping containers for the voyage to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The Parish Twinning Program representatives will meet the sea containers at the docks in Port-au-Prince and take care of the lengthy process for the boxes to clear Customs. Once that is taken care of, Father Raymond will be notified to pick up our boxes of donations at the Parish Twinning Program offices in Port-au-Prince. We are looking for donations of vitamins, pain relievers, hydrocortisone, reading glasses, Tums, antibacterial cream, bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, pencils, pens, and pencil sharpeners. There are no stores in the six-village Chauffard community. The items are greatly needed and will be distributed in the schools and at the clinic.



You can drop off donations for the sea container shipment at the Church entrances any weekend. We are especially looking for donations of vitamins, pain relievers, hydrocortisone, reading glasses, Tums, antibacterial cream, bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, pencils, pens, and pencil sharpeners.