

The Connection

Parish Twinning Program
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Newsletter of Parish Twinning Program of the Americas
La Connexion - Lettre de Nouvelles de Parish Twinning Program

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Building Sister Parish Relationships Since 1978

CHRISTMAS 2011

Matthew 25 House / Quake Update Land Purchased for New M25 House

Land was purchased in June 2011 for construction for a new Matthew 25 House. The M25 House was damaged in the earthquake, and we have been forced to find a new location for our hospitality house in order to accommodate the many visitors who come to Haiti to do mission work.

We hope within the next few months to inform you of the cost estimate on a storage building and house. Our dream for now is to first construct storage space by June 2011 for unloading next spring's container shipment.

Earthquake Tent City

The tent city known as Camp Izmary was closed in February 2011 when all the displaced quake victims relocated. We had supported the tent city through many means, and we are indebted to those at Matthew 25 House who worked so very hard. A huge "Thank You" to **Director Sr. Mary Finnick** and **Pat & Vivian Tortora** and all the others at Matthew 25 who lent a hand to assist the people of the tent city. We also aided the 2,000 victims in the camp with supplies, water, cooks to prepare food, maintained garbage collection, and we shared usage of our cistern and our generator. We helped them to organize a committee, hire helpers, and arrange for security. We also supported a temporary school with its set-up, supplies, and teachers. The school served 150 children, and we started a milk program. When the temporary school closed, the students were helped with their upcoming tuition at their normal school. We took care of numerous medical personnel who were aiding those in the tent city and traveling out to other areas of need. We facilitated many such trips and obtained med supplies. We helped individuals, staffers, and people in the neighborhood to offset their rebuilding and relocating costs.



✠ A couple from Anse-à-Veau seen on a mission trip.



✠ A group from Christ the King Church-Nashville, TN visits Pilette. L to R: Dave Kuhlman, Marguerite Callahan, a local parishioner, Fr. Ernst Dorcin, Fr. Joe McMahan, and Theresa Patterson.

Sea Container - April 2011

Our spring sea container of your donated goods was successfully shipped to Haiti and

unloaded. Our dedicated Sea Coordinator Pat Rehovsky was heading up his last shipment. We gathered goods April 4 to 15. Containers were loaded the week of April 18. Our Haiti Coordinator, Domond, was able to get the paperwork through the government and through Customs. They unloaded the containers on June 30 and July 1, 4, 5, and 6. **Thanks to Pat's helpers: Mary Rehovksy & Mark Dorais and all the others.** See the photos on pg. 4.

We are still looking for a Co-Coordinator to work with Pat Rehovsky for the 2012 shipment with the possibility of their taking over as Coordinator the following year. A 3-week commitment is necessary—in addition to assistance in obtaining workers, contacting the freight forwarder, fielding calls, etc. Person must have ability to lift heavy items and ability to learn to operate a forklift. If interested, call Theresa Patterson at (615) 298-3002.

Sea Container Details

Date: April 2011
Location: Nashville/Smyrna
No. of Containers: 7
Total Items (Appx.): 4,349
Parishes Receiving: 60

**Next Sea Container:
April/May 2012
(Exact Date Will Be Seen in Later Mailing)**



Inserts in This Issue

*Christmas Appeal Letter
& Response Envelope*

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Our Calendar

*Fall '11 / Winter '12
Mission trips to Haiti
Develop new M25 site
Prep for Sea Container*

Fonkoze Bank

Fonkoze can wire funds directly from you to your twin parish's Fonkoze account. No mail hassles. We have been encouraging all our twin parishes for some time to use Fonkoze to distribute their funds. Contact us for more info.

There are now 10 Catholic dioceses in Haiti:

*Anse-à-Veau / Miragoâne
Cap-Haïtien
Fort-Liberté
Gonaïves
Hinche
Jacmel
Jérémie
Les Cayes
Port-au-Prince
Port-de-Paix*

Parish Highlights

Twin Parishes in Haiti (Haïti / Ayiti)



Executive Director
Theresa Patterson

Please send us stories, photos, and feedback from your trips! We might use them here.

**TOTAL
HAITI
TWINNINGS:
335**

In Haiti, we have had another very busy year of travel, with numerous groups traveling down to visit twin parishes. We enjoyed great fellowship, Sunday masses, feast days, holy days, and simple meals shared. Too, we endured sleep-deprived nights at rectories, driving rocky mountain roads, rain-swollen rivers, and yes, even a few flat tires. Yet, it was a great year of post-earthquake stewardship. Thanks to everyone who made the effort and bore the personal expense of traveling to improve their human bonds with the poor of Haiti. May God remember you always.

Theresa has traveled to Haiti 6 times this year thus far to introduce parishioners to sister parishes and take care of other business as well.

- *February*: The highly organized parish team from both St. Ann-Baldwin, MI and St. Ignatius-Luther, MI visited Nôtre Dame de Deliverance in the Fort-Liberté diocese. PTPA Board Member Fr. Ron Schneider led the group and celebrated the mass there. The group also enjoyed time spent with the Bishop. The people of the parish threw a big going-away party for them before they left. After that visit, Theresa ventured to Visitation Clinic and joined up with Liz Gude and her granddaughter to donate time assembling furniture for several days that had been sent on the previous sea container shipment. They were then joined by a parishioner from St. Joan of Arc Church in Saint Clair Shores, MI to travel together to newly twinned Dessources Parish in the Anse-à-Veau/Miragoâne diocese. The parish is very poor, and residents have to walk several hours to get fresh water. Their church is still missing its roof since the quake in 2010. Their grade school is holding classes in a garage.

Also in February, a new group from St. Cecelia Church in Algona, IA went to Chantal Parish in the Les Cayes diocese. The group of six included Fr. James Secora. **Long-time friend of PTPA, Fr. Joe Beckman, joined them too. (See special "Thank You" to him.)**

- *May*: Four parishioners of Our Lady of the Lake-Holland, MI went on their first exploratory visit to Labrande Parish in the Gonaïves diocese. Père Wilner Hilaire hosted their productive visit.

- *June*: Theresa traveled to Haiti to finish the bulk of the purchase of the property for the New Matthew 25 House.

- *October*: Three people from South Burlington, VT visited a new parish in the Hinche diocese known as Boc-Banique (Creole spelling Boc-Banic). Theresa also then visited

the VHF Clinic in Petite Rivière de Nippes to unpack goods sent on the 2011 sea container shipment.

- *November*: Three people from Christ the King Parish in Nashville journeyed to see the parishes of Roche Plate and Pilette in the Cap-Haïtien diocese.

You Can Help A Struggling Parish !

There are many needs in the new parish of Bassin Mangant that are not being met. Père Jacques-Rony Alescandre hopes to connect with a twin parish. He also hopes to build a rectory and obtain a vehicle. His parish is in the Gonaïves diocese near Labrande. Contact Theresa at PTPA if your parish, a neighboring parish, or any other parish would like to help. Theresa knows of other parishes seeking a sister church as well, so please contact her if you think your parish is interested in twinning.



✠ St. Ann-Baldwin MI and St. Ignatius-Luther visited their sister parish of Nôtre-Dame de Deliverance in the Hinche diocese. L to R: Theresa Patterson, Rose Dingman, Fr. Ron Schneider, Sally Swiger, Becky Johnson, Sr. Mary Finnick.



✠ Fr. Schneider distributes communion at Nôtre-Dame.

Medical Missions & Outreach

Important Announcement for 2012 Med Teams:

Because of stringent airline restrictions on baggage and increasing difficulties with Customs, Bertony Domond has suggested that you try to order as many medicines as possible for your med mission through 4C (Caribbean Canadian Chemical Company) in PAP. For more information from 4C, e-mail: cchti@yahoo.com or servicelab4c@gmail.com.

Domond can assist you in ordering and picking up meds from 4C prior to the date of your med mission. You will be opening your own account with 4C. For more details, contact Domond at (011) (509) 3726-4472 or e-mail him at domondesir@yahoo.com.

We want to extend a special thanks to all the med teams who have sacrificed their time, their vacations, their own funds, and foregone time with their families in order to perform med mission trips. Their service has been invaluable to hundreds of thousands of Haitians over the years. Approximately 50 med teams traveled to Haiti in 2011.

Med Mission Contacts & Helpful Info.

Dr. Tom Grabenstein - h (931) 503-1406

Dr. Don La Font - h (901) 668-5974 or (731) 852-2091 *You can request our Med Mission Notebook (please donate \$50).*

Latin American Program

Central & South America, Mexico, Philippines, Spanish-Speaking Carib.

COORDINATOR

Frances Sosadeeter Phone: (941) 921-3368
 4048 Olive Ave. E-mail: ptpa1978@verizon.net
 Sarasota, FL 34231
 - *Programa de Hermanamiento de Parroquias de Las Americas* - Number of Twinings: 50

PTPA welcomes the new twinned parishes:

- *Holy Spirit in Indianapolis, IN with San Francisco de Asís in Texiguat, Honduras*
- *St. Joseph Parish in Marietta, GA with San José in El Rodeo, Guatemala*
- *St. Marco Parish on Marco Island, FL with San Juan Bautista Chamula in Chiapas, Mexico*
- *St. Mary of the Mills in Laurel, MD with HOPE ("Helping Older People Equally") under the direction of the Pallotine Missionary Sisters in Punta Gorda, Belize*

St. Peter Church in DeLand, FL, which is twinned with Nuestra Señora del Rosario (Our Lady of the Rosary) in Sabanagrande, Honduras, is organizing a fundraising activity in January 2010 for a micro-loan women's project identified by Our Lady in their strategic plan. As part of the fundraising event, they will have a dinner and a silent auction. Their keynote speaker will be Your Eminence, Cardinal Mgr. Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga! We wish St. Peter a successful event on behalf of the women of Honduras!

We have many more parishes in Central America, South America, and Mexico waiting to be twinned. If you know of a parish in the US interested in twinning with a Spanish-speaking parish, please contact Frances. A heartfelt "Thank You" to all the parishes for their commitment to their sister parishes. May the birth of Jesus bring us closer to the needy whom we all so much love and may it also enlighten your sister parish relationship to be mutually and equally enriching. Have a blessed 2010! - *Frances Sosadeeter*

Special Thanks to Joe Beckman

Fr. Joe Beckman has been a friend of Haiti and a friend of PTPA for a long time. He has been extremely supportive of our work over the years. He is a retired priest from the diocese of Cincinnati, Ohio and has traveled to over 100 countries as a journalist. He recently made his 13th trip to Haiti at the age of 89. He undertook a visit to Chantal in the Les Cayes diocese with Theresa and a group from Iowa, and he was a joyful and delightful traveling companion. Fr. Joe cares deeply for Haiti. We owe a debt of gratitude to Fr. Joe for his many years of involvement with the Program. We wish Fr. Joe an abundance of blessings and good health for being such a gift to the Program, and we wish him a belated 90th birthday.



Matthew 25 House

Our Hospitality House in Port-au-Prince, Haiti



Matthew 25 Director
Sr. Mary Finnick

Matthew 25 House continues to receive guests in spite of the planned later relocation. Special thanks to all the people who have helped at Matthew 25 for any length of time this year. We appreciated the time and efforts of Mary Bowers, Catherine Birdwell, Jan Magnuson, Sr. Anne Wisda, and others.

- Please contact Sr. Mary to make a reservation so that she may send you the form for you to fill out.

- The Folks at Matthew 25 House Always Need To Know:
- Dates & times of your arrival & departure (airport & M25)
 - Whether group needs to be picked up at airport
 - Whether you need vehicles, interpreters, and/or drivers
 - Number of people in group & their gender
 - Any in-country flights or other special requests
 - Cost: \$35 per "room-night" per person

Matthew 25 House (Note: Two letter t's in Matthew)



E-Mail: Matthew25house@yahoo.com
E-Mail - Sr. Mary Finnick: mfinnick5@aol.com
Phone - Fixed Cell: (011)(509)(2) 511-7273
Phone-Sr. Mary's Cell: (011)(509)(3) 493-1900
Phone-Domond's Cell: (011)(509)(3) 726-4472
Web Site: www.matthew25tabletalk.com
 The web site contains Forums.
 They cannot receive a fax at M25 House.

Matthew 25 Hospitality House Address:
#6, Rue A. Martial et Jean-Baptiste
Delmas 33
Port-au-Prince, Haiti W.I.



☪ *Our Lady of the Lake-Holland MI visits Labrande-Doubedon this year.*

Fundraising

Parishes Tithing for Program

Is Your Parish Tithing for PTPA?

We have been blessed to have almost 50 parishes tithing on a regular basis to give general donations to our Program. Others tithe by giving an annual donation. For those not tithing, we would ask you again to consider contributing monthly or yearly to PTPA an amount equal to 6% of the amount which is sent directly to your twin parish or project (or anything you can give). Whatever you decide, we thank you for your interest & participation.

Matching Funds: Please check with your employer for **gift-matching opportunities** for the donations you give (or plan to give) to PTPA for our general use.

Estates: Please keep us in your estate plans and wills. Thanks for responding so generously!

Thanks to QAC! Queen of Apostles Community Church has held another picnic for the Program. Each year, they hold a "Haiti Picnic" to raise funds for PTPA and increase awareness. This year, they raised \$3,176.70. Thank you as always to Becky Sommer and all the others for their efforts!

INFO BOX

You can research Haiti on www.google.com and www.wikipedia.org (even airlines) and look for books (etc.) on www.amazon.com

Handouts Which You Can Request from PTPA:

Travel Guide, Fonkoze Bank Instructions, Book & Media List, Med Mission Notebook - Please give \$50 to offset our ntbk. costs

Phone Calls to Haiti: First, dial international code (011), then country code for Haiti (509); if it's a 7-digit number, then either dial 2 for a land line phone number or dial 3 for a cell phone number first; then dial 7-digit phone # (if 8 digits, dial w/o 2 or 3)

Fonkoze Transfers: 1-800-293-0308 E-mail: fundnotice@fonkoze.org

Book: *Twinning Faith and Development* by Tara Hefferan

Book (Medical): *Where There is No Doctor* 1-800-729-1796

Book (Medical): *Haitian Creole Pocket Med. Translator* (508) 435-7377

Book (Creole basics): *Survival Creole* (785) 864-4431

Creole Dictionary: *Diksyonè Kreyòl by Jeanty* www.amazon.com

Creole Dictionaries Etc. Creole Institute (812) 855-4988

Books/Schoolbooks in Creole: Educavision 1-800-983-3822

Bibles in Haitian Creole: www.internationalbibles.com

Recommended Book: *Mountains beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder

Airline to Port-au-Prince: American Airlines from Miami or NY

Delta Airlines goes from New York to PAP

Spirit Airlines goes from Fort Lauderdale FL to PAP

Fort Laud. to Cap-H: IBC Travel (954) 834-1700 1-866-422-7000

Agape Flights-by special request: www.agapeflights.com

Airlines inside Haiti: Dial (011)(509) first (Answerer may not speak English) *Matthew 25 House can help you with interior flights

MAF (Mission Aviation) 2510-8086 E-mail: MAF-US@maf.org

Tropical Airways-PAP 2298-3444/-3445 Port-de-Paix 2268-5770

Salsa Airlines - U.S. (954) 990-1700 / PAP (509) 2813-1222

Port-au-Prince to Jérémie: MAF, Tropical Airways

PAP to Cap-Haïtien: Tropical Airways, Salsa

PAP to Port-de-Paix: Tropical Airways

PAP to Hinche & Pignon: MAF



**SEA
CONTAINER
2011
Gathering of Goods
in Nashville**



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A Board Meeting was held October 1 in Nashville. Topics included the relocation & development of a new Matthew 25 House and the June 2012 CRS/USCCB Conference.

♦ **MISSION STATEMENT:** The mission of the Parish Twinning Program of the Americas (PTPA) is to serve those in need by:

- ❖ Developing and maintaining linkages of Catholic parishes, institutions, and individuals in North America with parishes and institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- ❖ Facilitating visits and communications to twinning parishes;
- ❖ Encouraging prayerful solidarity, empowering our sisters and brothers in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- ❖ Providing resources and support in religious, educational, medical, and economic areas;
- ❖ Promoting awareness among Catholics of the injustices present and our gospel call to respond concretely; and,
- ❖ Assisting North American parishes to develop models for outreach to their sister parishes.