

Parish Twinning Program  
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# The Connection

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

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A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

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Building Sister Parish Relationships Since 1978

FALL 2010

## \* NEW PHONE & FAX NUMBERS \*

We have new phone & fax numbers, so please take note of them to the right above.

## Matthew 25 House / Quake Update

Matthew 25 is still accepting Program members traveling to Haiti, but the house sustained damage in the quake, especially upstairs. PTPA is actively searching for a suitable property to purchase and to use for building a new guest house and to construct a storage depot to help with the storage of sea container items.

Since the 7.3 magnitude earthquake on January 12, Sr. Mary Finnicks has allowed displaced people to stay in the soccer field behind M25. Sr. Mary, along with Vivian & Pat Tortora, endeavored to provide tents, medical supplies, food, and other necessities to many whose homes were damaged or destroyed by the quake. Sr. Mary and M25 were featured twice on NBC's *Today Show* for meeting the needs of the injured, for their efficiency and management of the tent city, and for their compassion and caring.

Initially, M25 had nearly 2,000 people in the tent city. That number is now down to less than 600. It is hoped that, by the end of December, the families can be relocated.

SPECIAL THANKS AGAIN to Sr. Mary, Vivian & Pat, Domond, Taye, and all those who rose to the occasion. They have made us proud of what they accomplished on behalf of Matthew 25. Our sincerest thanks, also, to many of you who individually or collectively, made it to Haiti and performed med mission work in affected areas and your twin parish communities.

A HEARTFELT THANKS to all of you who donated to PTPA & M25 during these critical times. Your generosity and compassion never cease to amaze us.



## Sea Container - April / May 2010

Many thanks to our Sea Coordinator Pat Rehovsky, who did another great job of organizing a sea container shipment of donated items to Haiti. This shipment was particularly daunting because of the heartfelt response by so many of you to the quake. We gathered goods April 19th to 30th. Loading days were May 1st and May 3rd to the 7th. The vessel arrived in PAP on May 28th.

Our Haiti Coordinator, Domond, worked hard to push the paperwork through the government and Customs. He accomplished this in 4 weeks, which is remarkable considering the governmental slowdown after the quake. They unloaded the containers on June 28, 29, 30 and July 1, 2, and 5.

**Thanks to Pat's 29 helpers: Mary Rehovsky & Mark Dorais and all the others.**

### Sea Container Details

Date: April/May 2010  
Location: Nashville/Smyrna  
# Containers: 7 (40' High Cube)  
Total Items (Appx.): 4,691  
Parishes/Orgs. Receiving: 59



Coordinator Pat Rehovsky directs a delivery to the warehouse by phone. More photos--page 2.

**\*A HUGE THANK YOU also to:  
Vivian & Pat Tortora for their selfless commitment to M25 House over the last 4 years!!**

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

E-Mail: [Matthew25house@yahoo.com](mailto:Matthew25house@yahoo.com)  
E-Mail - Sr. Mary Finnicks: [mfinnick5@aol.com](mailto: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](http://www.matthew25tabletalk.com)  
**Matthew 25 Hospitality House Address:**  
#6, Rue A. Martial et Jean-Baptiste  
Delmas 33  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti W.I.



**Our Calendar**  
Fall 2010 - Fall  
mission trips to Haiti, etc.

**Inserts in This Issue**  
- Fall Appeal Letter & Response Envelope -  
Note: This newsletter is 2 pages in length. We hope to do a fuller issue soon with more updates.

**Update on Domond**  
Bertony Domond is recovering from a bad knee injury suffered while playing soccer in Haiti. Pete Murphy of Gift of Water arranged for Domond to travel to Indiana for care. Domond had surgery on August 11 to repair his ligaments and nerve damage. He is returning to Haiti, where he will get physical therapy. We wish him the best in his recovery!

**Fonkoze Bank**  
Fonkoze has resumed charging the \$10.00 wiring fee. We continue to strongly recommend Fonkoze, since it allows you to wire funds directly to a Fonkoze bank account in Haiti without the worry of mailing checks. Contact us for more info.

**HAITI TWINNINGS: 340  
-NEW SINCE QUAKE: 11  
LATIN TWINNINGS: 50  
- See web site for Mission Stmt.**



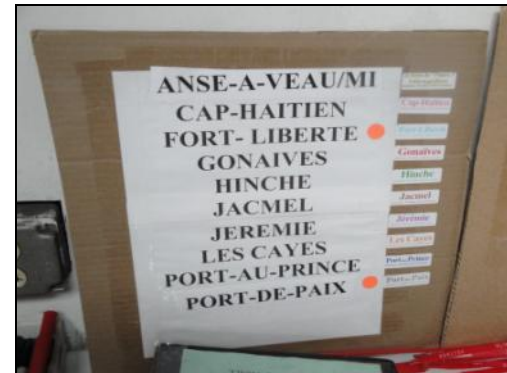
### Latin American Program

**Latin American Program Coordinator:**  
**Frances Sosadeeter**  
*E-mail: [ptpa1978@verizon.net](mailto:ptpa1978@verizon.net)*

PTPA's Latin American Program continues to expand in Central America. Several parishes continue actively visiting their parishes annually. In 2010, three new parishes are in the process of twinning. St. Mary Mother of God parish in Trenton, NJ was recently twinned with a parish in Guatemala. In June, Frances joined the parish of St. Peter of Deland, FL during their visit to their sister parish in Honduras. They helped to finish building a chapel and attended an ordination of four seminarian students as deacons with Cardinal Mgr. Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga. There was a great chemistry between the two sister parishes, reminding us how two parishes can become one universal church: one people of God. The Latin American Program also assisted the Haiti Program with post-earthquake relief work in Haiti this year. We raised over \$10,000, purchased tents and survival items and gathered medical supplies. We hand-delivered these much needed supplies to 10 families, an orphanage, and Matthew 25. We thank you for continuing to develop your sister parish relationships at a deeper level. If still active, please update us on the status of your twinning. The Latin American Program continues to emphasize the three cornerstones of a sister parish relationship: Spiritual (Conversion), Cultural (Communion) and Pastoral (Solidarity)!



**SEA CONTAINER**  
**2010**  
*Gathering of Goods  
in Nashville*



*Parishioners from St. Peter Church in Florida help to finish an adobe chapel in Honduras. Below, Gini shares food with a local woman as part of their Honduran twin parish's social outreach program.*



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