

PARISH TWINNING PROGRAM

HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS FOR ESTABLISHING A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR SISTER PARISH

1. Establish a small committee to provide ongoing awareness within the parish.
2. Select a committee person to communicate with the Haitian pastor.
3. Have a "Haitian Sunday" in which the sister parish is introduced.
 - a. Invite a speaker for all the masses or let a parishioner who has been to Haiti tell their story.
 - b. Distribute information on the sister parish. A flyer can be handed to each person as they enter the church, it can be inserted in a bulletin, or available in the commons area.
 - c. Petition prayers for Haiti.
 - d. Display photographs of sister parish and Haiti on church bulletin board.
 - e. Show a power point presentation on Haiti after the masses.
 - f. First collection for sister parish can occur on the introduction Sunday or the following weekend.
4. Send letter of introduction to Haitian pastor -- enclose a church directory or scrapbook of parish activities and photos.
5. Try to communicate with Haitian pastor every two to three months.
6. Haitian pastors have expressed a desire to receive financial support monthly, if possible, or every two to three months.

IDEAS FOR PROMOTING AWARENESS

VISITS

1. Strongly encourage parishioners to visit sister parish in Haiti.
2. Executive Director of PTPA, Theresa Patterson, will accompany parish groups on first trip to Haiti. Contact Theresa for scheduling of first visit.
3. Invite Haitian pastor to visit parish in U.S.
 - a. Have him give the homily or speak after communion at all of the masses on the weekend.
 - b. Provide activities for him & opportunities to speak to various church groups, school children and to meet people in the parish.

PUBLICITY/PROMOTION SUGGESTIONS

1. Publish excerpts or complete letters from the Haitian pastor in the Sunday bulletin and/or parish newsletter.
2. Display photographs, map and articles on Haiti in church bulletin.
3. Obtain slides to show to organizations in the parish or to the entire parish.
4. Periodically publish or make available current information on Haiti and your twinning in your parish newsletter or on a church bulletin board.
5. Contact your local diocesan newspaper to write a story on your twinning relationship. Invite a reporter to accompany you on a parish visit to Haiti.
6. Involve the school children in numerous projects; collecting pennies; doing construction paper drawings for school children in sister parish; collecting school supplies, etc.
7. Send a large Christmas card (or an appropriate card at any other time of the year) with signatures and well-wishes from members of your parish, youth groups or school children to your sister parish.
8. Send a banner from your parish to your sister parish with symbols, pictures and signatures.
9. Establish a "Haitian Corner" in your parish bulletin to provide information on Haiti and your sister parish.
10. Sign petitions at weekend masses regarding peace and justice issues in Haiti.
11. Contact the Institute for Justice & Democracy and other news services for updated information on Haiti and for becoming involved in advocacy for the poor of Haiti.

LITURGY

1. Petition prayers for sister parish one Sunday a month (could coincide with the monthly collection) or incorporate prayer for your sister parish in other liturgical services.
2. Use Haitian music for meditation after communion.
3. Make a banner depicting your sister parish relationship that can be displayed on the altar or in the commons area.
4. Bring up Haitian gifts at the Offertory using items that are symbolic of Haiti.
5. Distribute a flyer introducing your sister parish twinning describing how the relationship came about, the purpose for the relationship, a brief history on the Parish Twinning Program, some statistics about Haiti, and general information on your sister parish.