

## *Parish Twinning Program of the Americas*

### **IDEAS OF THINGS TO DO OR TO OFFER VISITORS FROM YOUR SISTER PARISH IN HAITI OR LATIN AMERICA**

1. Hold a fundraiser to pay for the visiting pastor's airline ticket.
2. Have the priest speak at all the masses. Use a French, Kreyòl, or Spanish translator if the priest does not speak English. You may ask the priest to prepare his speech in French/Spanish in advance of his visit and e-mail it to you to have translated into English, so that it can be read by any parishioner or the priest himself.
3. Have the pastor concelebrate the mass.
4. If the visiting priest feels comfortable reading in English, have him read a portion of the consecration.
5. Ask one or more parishioners to invite the pastor for dinner or lunch in their home or in a restaurant.
6. Invite the local and Diocesan newspaper to write an article about the pastors visit and PTPA.
7. Make and display a sister parish relationship banner.
8. Plan a reception after one of the masses or an opportunity to speak about his parish and its needs.
9. Have the Parish Council and/or the Haiti Committee plan a meeting with the pastor.
10. If US parish has a school, plan for the priest to tour the school and visit the children.
11. Offer a tour of the town and special places.
12. Request drawings from the school children for the sister parish school.
13. A Catholic bookstore may be willing to donate religious items to pastor.
14. Other parish organizations, such as Legion of Mary, may want to provide rosaries, etc.
15. Gifts from the parish can be offered for church or priest personally.
16. A parishioner may offer to take the pastor shopping for parish or personal needs.

Note: Please know that most guests welcome free time to nap, watch movies, and relax. Do not feel you have to pack their schedule with activities.

**IDEAS FOR PLANNING A VISIT TO YOUR SISTER PARISH IN HAITI  
OR LATIN AMERICA**

1. Schedule your trip so that you can spend at least one Sunday to participate in the mass. Traveling to Haiti on Thursday and to your sister parish on Friday works well.
2. Schools generally dismiss at noon on Friday. If you cannot arrive before noon, plan to visit schools on Monday morning.
3. If your pastor visits your sister parish, he should be prepared to speak and concelebrate if asked.
4. Ask pastor ahead of time to prepare agenda with scheduled visits to projects you have sponsored.
5. Request time to visit as many chapels and schools as possible.
6. Inquire with pastor prior to trip if it is feasible for him to transport you to and from Port-au-Prince to your sister parish and how many people can he take in his vehicle.
7. If your pastor is not fluent in English, consider bringing an interpreter. Advice on interpreters can be obtained at PTPA's hospitality house, Matthew 25.
8. Prior to visit e-mail Matthew 25 House at [matthew25house@yahoo.com](mailto:matthew25house@yahoo.com) to request a form for needs for your visit or overnight accommodations.
9. Consider spending at least one night at Matthew 25 House to get oriented to Haiti and to meet other parish groups.
10. Matthew 25 House accommodates guests at \$40 a day with meals and trips to and from the airport.
11. Refer to PTPA Resource Notebook Travel Section for a travel guide, a checklist of things to take, and simple Kreyòl phrases.
12. If you are planning a first-time visit to your sister parish, contact PTPA's Executive Director to accompany you.
13. It is easiest to take cash to Haiti, however, you can write a check to Matthew 25 for accommodations and/or gifts from the boutique if amount is over \$1,000.00 US. They can also exchange U.S. dollars into Haitian goudes up to \$500 US. Leftover goudes can be exchanged back into U.S. dollars after returning from your sister parish.
14. Consider taking a scrapbook of photos and a directory from your parish.
15. You may want to consider inquiring if the Haitian pastor has any special requests before your departure.