

HAITI



**St. Joseph the Worker &
Sainte Catherine d'Alexandre**
A Sister Parish Relationship since

January 2009

Reflection

A great temptation in traveling to Haiti is to come as helpers and rescuers and to see the people as something wholly other- and not like us. While service is important, the overarching goal of our relationship is to see the people of Haiti, seeing them not only with physical eyes but also with the eyes of our heart and with the eyes of God, to see their humanity, and to appreciate and see Christ in them. Our Haitian sisters and brothers have something to give each one of us, something we have yet to discover.

In Haiti, you will encounter and experience first hand the inequitable distribution of the world's resources. Every idea you have about fairness will be challenged. You will feel overwhelmed in the face of such immense suffering. You will want to turn away. If you allow yourself to enter in, to immerse yourself, to allow yourself to connect to the people of Haiti, you will be changed. Words fail to describe the immense suffering you will see, smell, touch, hear, and taste. This suffering will speak to you on a most primal level. However, Haiti cannot be reduced to only suffering. The people embody an incredible resilience and joy. The people know God.

In this light, we ask, what are we called to as a community? It is time to live into our mutual relationship with the community of Sainte Catherine d'Alexandre in Bouzy. Together, we ask ourselves, "What kind of relationship are we called to enter into with one another?" The temptation for us will be to act as benefactors. The temptation for the Haitians will be to minimize their gifts because of the financial resources that we bring. Together, we as communities must discover together what the Spirit has in mind for us, as the Spirit continues binding our hearts together in love and solidarity.

Sa je pa wé, ké pa
founnen.

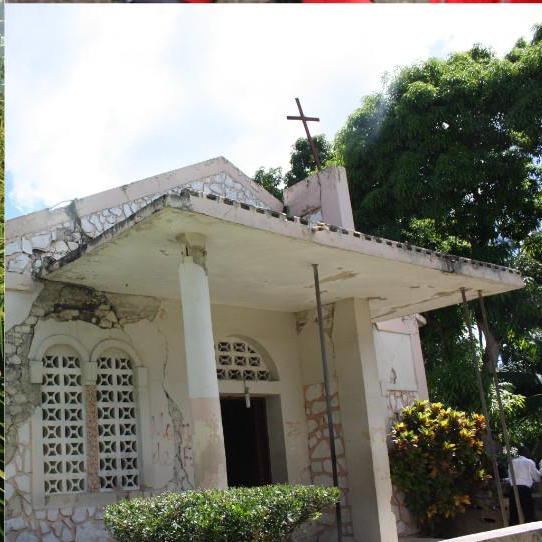
"What the eye doesn't see
doesn't move the heart."
- Haitian Proverb



St. Joseph the Worker
7180 Hemlock Lane, Maple Grove, MN



Here's
How You
Can
Help!



Do you have an interest in learning more about our relationship with our brothers and sisters in Bouzy? Than we have an opportunity for you! We are looking for people to help with projects, to work in our current committees, and help with

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICITY: We need help sharing our experiences and getting the messages out to the parish. This includes all communications to the parish through e-news, bulletins, mass media, website, social media, and to update our master calendar.

EVENTS COMMITTEE: Members would work on one or more of the following: Earthquake commemorations, trip presentations, social hours, auction, and collaboration with other ministries like Immigration Sunday.

TRIP AND PLANNING LOGISTICS: Help with planning air travel, transportation, and translators for periodic mission trips from our parish to Bouzy, Haiti.

FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING: This would include quarterly summaries of income and expenses and setting up reminders and thank you letters for monthly / quarterly donors.

FRENCH AND HAITIAN KREYOL TRANSLATORS: People to help with translating for our Haitian guests and help mission groups with learning basic Kreyol.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES: Help us find creative ways to raise funds so we can continue to grow our relationship and show our support.

CURRENT COMMITTEES WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE YOUR TALENTS:

MEDICAL COMMITTEE: Support for community based medical care, empowering Haitians to monitor and continue preventative healthcare measures and treat simple illness / injury.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE: Support clean water, nutrition, and housing projects.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Support existing schools, help with improving learning tools, teacher training, supplies, and books.



HAITI CORE TEAM:

DEACON KEVIN O'CONNOR, BONNIE STEELE, MARY OLDHAM, FRANKLIN VACA, ADRIANA SO-TO-VACA, HIEU TU, SUZANNE KOENIGS, DAVE AND LORI HENKE.

CONTACT ANY HAITI CORE TEAM MEMBER IF YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST OR TO FIND OUT MORE CALL:

763-425-6505 x108

OR EMAIL: STJOSEPH.SAINTECATHERINE@GMAIL.COM