



SHALOM HAITIAN EDUCATION FUND NEWS

An occasional bulletin to provide information on our partnership with the Office of Education of the Diocese of Hinche, Haiti. It is also available on our website: www.richmonddiocese.org/haiti.

February 2009

PÈRE JETHRO NOËL TO BE THE FEATURED SPEAKER AT THE ANNUAL HEF BENEFIT DINNER

We just learned that Fr. Jethro Noël has accepted our invitation to be guest speaker for the Haitian Education Fund's Annual Benefit Dinner. Fr. Jethro is the Vicar General of the Diocese of Hinche, which is awaiting the appointment of a new bishop. He is also the curriculum coordinator of the Catholic school system of the diocese and—in his spare time—the principal of the Collège St. Martin de Porres, the middle-and-high school of the diocese.



Fr. Jethro Noël with Richard Joseph, Diocesan Education Director

Fr. Jethro will be talking about the Catholic educational scene in Haiti's Central Plateau and his hopes for its future—on which he has already made an impact with his concern for upgrading the science and ecological curriculum.

More information about the dinner, which will be held on Saturday evening, May 2, can be found below.

HINCHE EDUCATION MEETING WITH HAITIAN EDUCATION FUND BOARD MEMBERS

On February 6 three members of the HEF Board met with members of Hinche's diocesan Commission on Education [CDE] and the staff of the Education Office [BDE]. Representing the HEF Board were chairman Paul Fuhs, Kathy Gross and Patrice Schwermer. Some of what was discussed is excerpted from Kathy's minutes of the meeting.

CDE: Commission Diocesaine d'Education is the diocesan body in charge of Catholic education. It appoints the diocesan Director of Education (currently Richard Joseph) and the employees of the BDE. The Bishop is the president.

BDE: Bureau Diocesain d'Education is responsible for executing the orientation of the CDE for the unified curriculum of all Catholic schools in the diocese (93 primary and 11 secondary).

Both groups spelled out their expectations for the meeting:

- HEF:** To learn about the salary structure, interactions between the BDE and NGOs and the Ministry of Education, and to learn more about school lunch programs
- CDE:** The HEF board will learn more about diocesan schools and continue to work together to increase education, especially of the teachers, through the Normal School in Papaye and by developing programs for existing teachers.

What follows are some of the learnings which emerged for the HEF.

THE HAITIAN SCHOOL SYSTEM

Here in outline form is the system now used in Haiti:

The cycles:

First cycle—first, second and third grades
Second cycle—fourth, fifth and sixth grades
Third cycle—seventh, eighth and ninth grades (our “middle school”)

Kinds of schools:

Primary School = First Cycle + Second Cycle (our “elementary school”). There is a government exam at the end of the second cycle [the CEP] to determine eligibility for the next level.

Fundamental School = First Cycle + Second Cycle + Third Cycle. There is a government exam at end of third cycle to determine eligibility for secondary school.

Secondary School (High School):
 Tenth grade (called *troisième* or *Secondaire 1*)
 Eleventh grade (called *seconde* or *Secondaire 2*)
 Twelfth grade (called *rheto* or *Terminale 1* or *Bacc 1*), followed by a government exam to move into the next level, or pre-university year.
 Thirteenth grade (called *philo* or *Terminale 2* or *Bacc 2*), followed by an exam to enter the university-application process.

vises the primary schools in Hinche, Sapaterre, Maissade, Layaille, Marmont, Thomonde and Fond Pierre.

- *Beltré Saint-Ange* is the principal of the primary school in Carissade and supervises the Los Palis, Colladère, Cerca Carvajal and Bassin-Zim schools.

These men provide the BDE (and us) with written reports of their classroom visits and also of the graduation results. In addition, they do teacher-training workshops on the weekends at each of the schools they supervise.



The secondary school building at the Collège St. Martin de Porres

MORE ABOUT THE SUPERVISORS OF SCHOOLS

The Haitian Education Fund, among its other commitments, funds the work of the five supervisors who report to the diocesan Office of Education [BDE]. For each of them it is a part-time position, since they are also teachers (or in one case, a principal) themselves. Here they are with an overview of their roles:

- *Pharoutine Liclaire* teaches in a secondary school in Saltadère three days a week, and on the other days supervises the elementary schools in Thomassique, Cerca la Source, Darlegrand and Saltadère.
- *Romand Wookenson* teaches in a Roy Sec secondary school and supervises the primary schools in Lascahobas, Savanette, Roy Sec, Belladère, Dos Palais, Baptiste and Cabestor.
- *Pierrot Lafleur* is a secondary school teacher in Lascahobas and supervises the schools in Mirebalais, Boucan Carré, Dubuisson, Saut d'Eau, Trianon and Marché Canard.
- *Andrefaite Belfond* teaches part time at the Collège St. Martin de Porres in Hinche and super-



Haiti's Central Plateau—the roads the supervisors use as seen from the air

They get to their schools by motorcycle—and our “motorcycle fund” provides replacement vehicles for them, since the roads are so bad the motorcycles don't last very many years! Currently, however, only one of the five has a usable motorcycle; the others have to get to the school they want to visit by public transportation—chancy at best.



Without motorcycles this guy gets pressed into service!

Our motorcycle fund has less than \$700 in it, and we

need to grow this fund in the hope that at the beginning of the next school year each will have one.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' IN-SERVICE TRAINING

Training for secondary school teachers is held twice a year over a weekend. The BDE invites specialists with Master's degrees to talk about particular subject areas (e.g., physicians to talk about health education). The cost is about \$50 for the three-day session, and this is shared between the teachers, the BDE and the administration of the schools from which they come. At the most recent workshop 175 teachers participated, and it was held at the Emmaus Center in Papaye.

THE "NORMAL SCHOOL" HAS IMPLICATIONS FOR US

This term has not been used in the US since the early part of the twentieth century, but in Haiti a *Normal School* is a post-secondary teacher-training school. The École Normale de Papaye is conducted by the Little Sisters of Ste. Thérèse, with Sister Janann as the director.

There are currently 99 students in the three-year program. Tuition, books, room and board (weekdays) cost only about \$312.00! The school has a high graduation rate, but unfortunately many graduates go to work at public schools for a higher salary than they can get a Catholic school in the rural areas.

If a parish here in the US were to sponsor a student from their Haitian twinning parish, the CDE will have the student sign a contract committing to teaching in a particular school for a period of time.

THE ANNUAL GATHERING

The BDE hopes to have another large gathering of teachers, principals, pastors and representative parents during the summer vacation. Last year's event was handicapped by the flooding from the three hurricanes. The HEF hopes to have sufficient funds on hand by then to help sponsor this event.

THE WILLIAM & MARY CONNECTION: *EDITOR'S NOTE*

While "stuffing envelopes" in the process of getting the last edition out, I was struck by the number of names of folks whom I knew when they were students at the College of William & Mary. Their campus minister, Fr. Ron Seguin, had a major influence on them, no doubt, because after Fr. Ron died (1992) the Shalom Fund was set up in his honor and they were among the initial donors—

and many still continue to give.

The Shalom Fund, named from Ron's signature greeting, is the Endowment Fund which (along with contributions from our readers) supports the Haitian Education Fund in its mission of support for education in Haiti.

Many thanks to the Tribe out there among our readers—and may *your* tribe increase!

THE WEBSITE

Don't forget to stay in touch with us through the website for the Haitian Education Fund, www.haitianeducationfund.com. It contains information about the plans, achievements, needs, organization, and funding of the Haitian Education Fund as well as pictures, lots of pictures, of the activities supported by you, our donors.

Bishop Walter F. Sullivan,
Honorary Director
and the
Members of the Board of Directors
of the
Haitian Education Fund

**request the pleasure of your company
as our guest for a benefit dinner in
support of our
educational mission in Haiti**

Msgr. Jethro Noël
**Vicar General and Coordination of
Catholic Education
Diocese of Hinche**
Guest of Honor and Speaker

Saturday, May 2, 2009

**5:30 p.m. Liturgy
6:30 p.m. Dinner and Program**

**Diocesan Pastoral Center
7800 Carousel Lane
Richmond, Virginia**

***To receive an invitation, please contact the
Fund Secretary, Br. Cosmas Rubencamp, at
804-358-6210 or
crubencamp@comcast.net***

SHALOM/HAITIAN EDUCATION FUND CONTRIBUTORS

July 2008-June 2009

DIRECTOR LEVEL (\$5000 or more)

SUPERINTENDENT LEVEL (\$1500-\$4999)

PRINCIPAL LEVEL (\$1000-\$1499)

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I am enclosing a check for \$ _____ payable to: **Catholic Diocese of Richmond**).

I would like to designate it for (please check one):

- Improving the schools
- Endowment Fund (long-range support for projects)
- Support for Hinche diocesan Office of Education,
- Motorcycle Fund (motorcycles for supervisors)

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

E-mail address

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