



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.

July 2009

URGENT APPEAL

As you will note below in the report of the Board's meetings with Richard Joseph, The Haitian Education Fund has on hand about \$12,000 available in our operating budget. The current \$2,380 per month which is sent to Hinche for the support of the Office of Education and its five supervisors of schools will exhaust our funds before the end of the year. Richard and Fr. Jéthro have agreed to forego their salaries for three months, so that will help.

A high priority, however, is our support for the annual summer Gathering of the pastors, principals and representative teachers and parents of the elementary schools of the Hinche diocese. At this gathering new policies for the school improvement will be explained and support will be for them sought from those who have responsibilities for these schools. These new policies include encouraging parents to become involved in the schools, and support for school vegetable gardens. The Gathering will cost about \$2,750—not a huge sum, considering that about 400 participants are expected.

In the best of times, that is when there are no hurricanes, road wash-outs or public threats, communications in Haiti are difficult. Mail, email and telephone are all undependable, and promulgating and encouraging diocesan-wide initiatives in education are best achieved by face-to-face contact and persuasion with school administrators, teachers, pastors and parents. That is why this Gathering to set policies and approaches for the coming academic year is so very important, and is clearly manifest by the willingness of the administrators of the BDE to forego their salaries to allow the event to go forward. Would any one of us do that? Please consider giving even a small amount designated for the Gathering to support this effort.

**We rely on the generosity of our supporters.
Please help with as generous a contribution to our
2009-2010 budget as you can give!**

**We are grateful for all who supported us in the past
year; their names are listed in this newsletter.
(Please let us know if we have inadvertently
omitted anyone).**

NEW BOARD MEMBERS WELCOMED

Effective July 1, four new members were nominated to serve on the Board of Directors of the Haitian Education Fund.

Ray DeRegis is a Senior Instructional Designer with IBM and a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Norfolk.

Andrew Lefeld is Business Unit Accounting Manager for MeadWestvaco in Richmond and a member of the Church of the Epiphany, Chesterfield. He will be serving as Treasurer of the Haitian Education Fund.

Stewart Reid is the retired owner of Reid Funeral Home in Ashland and is a member of St. Ann's Parish there, where he is active in the parish's twinning relationship with the Dubuisson parish in Haiti.

Dorothy (Dot) Summers is a member of St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish in Ladysmith (Caroline County), which is twinned with the Collège St. Martin (secondary school) and the new primary school. Dot is a former high school English teacher and presently works as a technical writer/editor.

All four are most welcome!

RICHARD JOSEPH VISITS

Richard Joseph, Director of the Diocesan Office of Education (BDE) visited Virginia in late June and early July and met twice with the Haitian Education Fund Board, at which he reviewed the events sponsored by the BDE since April:

- April 15-16: A workshop for 99 first and second grade teachers focusing on the new text *Timoun Se Moun*, a copy of which was provided to each teacher.
- May 11-14: Pre-testing for 6th and 9th graders was conducted.
- May 25: Visited Cobanal where the school has a garden and where the teachers teach only one subject each; the school is now officially part of the diocesan system.
- May 27: Meeting in Port-au-Prince to discuss school vegetable gardens. Misereor (a German Catholic non-governmental organization) is providing funding, through Caritas, for pilot garden projects in the Hinche and Cap-Haitien dioceses—they hope to provide kasav and peanut-butter breakfasts at schools.
- May 29: Sr. Alcide and Richard went to Saltadère to visit the school.



Richard Joseph with HEF Board members John Beall, Kathy Gross and Cosmas Rubencamp

Other news:

- The Director-General of the CEEC (national bishops' committee on education) tried to get governmental approval and salaries for the supervisors, but were told that the government does not have enough funds.
- Richard and Sr. Alcide met with PNCS (governmental school nutritional program) representatives to seek school food. They followed up the meeting with a letter, but have not yet had a response.
- The BDE had a meeting at Sacre Coeur, Papaye, with pastors and education leaders on how to motivate and improve the morale of teachers.
- Sr. Alcide is taking responsibility for meeting monthly with the school supervisors.

Educational Gathering plans:

The BDE is hoping to have a one-day meeting of pastors, principals, and one teacher and parent from each school to go over plans and policies for the coming year.

Financial picture:

Due to a downturn in donations to the HEF this year and order to save funds, Richard and Fr. Jéthro Noël have volunteered to forego their salaries during June, July and August. They will be explaining the financial situation to the supervisors, stressing the need for regular reports, and negotiating salaries for next year.

Kreyòl class:

While he was here, at the invitation of several interested members of St. Thomas Aquinas University

Parish in Charlottesville, Richard offered a week-long introductory session on Haitian Kreyòl.



Richard Joseph's Kreyòl Class at St. Thomas, Charlottesville: Mildred Dunstan, Paul Harnois, Catherine Kromkowski, Richard Joseph, Laurie Duncan, Anne Knasel, Terri Powers, Vince Powers

Report cards were not made available to the press, but we hear that progress was made. The test will be on their next visit to their twinning parish in Saltadère, Haiti!

MOTORCYCLES FOR OUR SUPERVISORS

As mentioned from time to time, the five diocesan supervisors who visit the 88 primary schools of the Hinche diocese to promote teacher improvement, use motorcycles to get to these schools whenever possible, and when motorcycle travel is not possible because of the lack of roads, they use a horse or donkey.

Some of the motorcycles now are beyond repair. Bill Sigler, a member of our Board of Directors, is approaching foundations to fund replacement vehicles. Before he can apply for these grants, HEF needs to provide some matching funds. Your financial assistance now will to a longer way if we can establish that we have a constituency that supports this project. Please consider helping our diocesan supervisors to stay mobile so that more teachers may receive training and motivation.

SHALOM/HAITIAN EDUCATION FUND CONTRIBUTORS

July 2008-June 2009

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John & Martha Beall

Anthony & Diane Gambardella

SUPERINTENDENT LEVEL (\$1500-\$4999)

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Alfred & Kathleen Gross

Nancy & Joe Kunkel
Richard Nau

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MENTOR LEVEL (\$500-\$999)

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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):

- Summer Educational Gathering
- Support for Hinche diocesan Office of Education,
- Endowment Fund (long-range support for projects)
- Motorcycle Fund (motorcycles for supervisors)

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City

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