



IMMERSION RETREATS IN HAITI
Sponsored by the Diocese of Richmond
HOLY WEEK 2012

Experience Holy Week like you never have before. Immersion/retreat trips to Haiti are planned and designed to give the participants a firsthand experience of conditions in impoverished countries. Participants are introduced to the history, culture, economic, political and spiritual aspects of Haiti and are given an opportunity to begin to establish relationships with Haitian people. These experiences are called retreats because they are done in the context of prayer and reflection. Retreats are taken in Haiti because, as the economically poorest and most densely populated country in our hemisphere, it is the officially designated area to develop solidarity for the Diocese of Richmond. The trip will include meetings with people who live and work in Haiti and can share their knowledge and perspectives; visits to parishes and projects who are twinned with parishes in the Diocese of Richmond; and if available an overnight home stay with a Haitian family.

DATES: Holy Week March 31 to April 7, 2012

COST: about \$1,600.00 (including all travel, food, and lodging, the pre-retreat orientation and the debriefing session - total will vary with airfare cost). A \$800.00 nonrefundable deposit must accompany the application (check made payable to the Diocese of Richmond); the balance must be paid by February 29, 2012.

The airline tickets are non-refundable, so if the applicant cancels after the ticket is issued, the applicant will be responsible for the cost of the ticket (unless you decide to pay an extra fee allowing you to make changes in your ticket).

REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must:

- 1) Participate in the Orientation Retreat which is an overnight retreat March 10-11 at Richmond Hill, in Richmond, (long distant retreat participants may join us via Skype on a computer) and in the Debriefing Session - dates will be announced.
- 2) Hold a current U.S. passport (if you do not have a passport we suggest to apply three months before scheduled departure).

APPLICATIONS: return with a \$800.00 deposit check made out to Office of Justice and Peace and send to Jay Brown, Office of Justice and Peace 1512 Willow Lawn Drive, PO Box 6565, Richmond, VA 23230

Applications and deposits must be received by: February 1, 2012

Applications must have one letter of recommendation (from a teacher, employer, priest, or other minister) sent directly to us endorsing your participation in this retreat. Flights will be booked the week of February 13 by the diocese in consultation with you so we are all on the same flight to Haiti.

For further information, contact. Paul Amrhein - paul@saintbridgetchurch.org 525-7902, Diane Atkins datkins@churchredeemer.org 746-4911 Ext. 2222 or Carrie westoncarrie@hotmail.com 757-761-0504)

OUTREACH RETREAT TO HAITI: FUNDRAISING IDEAS

- 1) Approach your home parish or campus ministry. Support may be available from a special fund for activities such as this. The parish may also be willing to consider sponsoring a fund-raiser for your trip. You may wish to appear before the parish council to speak about your retreat plans.
- 2) Consider organizing a fund-raiser of your own. Traditional activities such as bake sale, a car wash, etc., have been used. Also think about being more creative: a benefit basketball game, a Walk-a-thon, or any other event. Be careful to specify that funds raised will go to sponsor your trip specifically. You may wish to designate that any additional funds will go to the people of Haiti.
- 3) Think about sending out an appeal letter. One former participant sent a letter to relatives, friends, coworkers, etc., and rose substantially more than the cost of the trip, allowing for a large donation to the Haitian people. In the letter, discuss why you are going on the retreat, what you hope to learn, and what you would like to do with the experience. You may tell people you will keep a journal and share it or a written reflection with them upon your return. Or you may host a dinner upon return to share your experience with donors.
- 4) Throw yourself a birthday party. Ask for donations toward your trip in lieu of gifts.
- 5) Invite yourself to meet with local civic/community groups such as the Knights of Columbus, Jaycees, Kiwanis, Elks, etc. Many of these groups have money available to support projects such as this. Offer to speak at one of their meetings upon your return.
- 5) Be creative and come up with your own unique ideas!
- 6) Remember it is important to express your gratitude to any person or group who supports you. Upon your return, consider writing a letter summarizing and reflecting on your experiences and sending it to all who helped make your trip possible.

APPLICATION: HAITI IMMERSION RETREATS

Name _____ as _____ it _____ appears _____ on _____ passport

Current address: _____

Telephone: (h) _____ (w) _____

E-Mail: _____ Fax: _____

Home address (if different from above): _____

Religious affiliation: _____ Sex: _____ Year of birth: _____

Occupation: _____ Year in school (if student) _____

Parish: _____

Who is your church's Twining Relationship in Haiti if any? _____

_____ Town: _____

Contact info for relationship in Haiti so we can arrange a possible visit for you?
? _____

In case of emergency while you are in Haiti, whom should we contact? Relationship: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (h) (_____) _____ (w) (_____) _____

Do you have any medical problems (e.g., diabetes, handicaps, obesity, heart ailments, allergies, etc.) which we should be alerted

to? _____ If so what? _____

Do you take Medication? _____ If so what? _____

Do you require a special diet? _____ If so, what kind? _____

Name _____ and _____ telephone _____ number _____ of _____ your _____ physician:

Retreat you are applying for (indicate dates of trip) _____

Are you able to participate in the required orientation session? _____ Debriefing session? _____

If you would prefer to travel from (and return to) an airport other than Richmond, indicate your preference: _____

On the reverse side, or a separate piece of paper, please write a couple of paragraphs expressing your reason for wanting to participate in this outreach-retreat experience, what you hope to gain from it, and any other comments you might want to make.

Diocesan Retreat Experience to Haiti

March 31 -April 7

Draft Itinerary:

- March 31 (Sat) Arrive Port au Prince
Arrive at Gwo Jan to DOA/BN guest house
Dinner then evening session on History and culture of Haiti and reflection
- April 1 (Sun.) Palm Sunday Mass at local Church
Lunch at Gwo Jan
More on History, Culture and overview of Haiti
Home stay
- April 2 (Mon.) Visit tent cities with CRS
Mother Theresa's Home for Malnourished Children
Travel to Hinche
Retreat participants will be go to their twinned parish
Those without twins will go to Hinche to stay at Rectory
- April 3 (Tues.) Participates at twinned parish
- April 4 (Wed.) Participants at twinned parish
- April 5 (Thu.) Attend Holy Thursday Mass in Hinche
Travel to Port au Prince
Arrive at Guest House
Dinner then reflection
- April 6 (Fri) Visit Anne Hastings at Fonkoze
Visit Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (Mario)
Good Friday Service in PAP
Dinner with Pax Christi Haiti
To guest House
Dinner and reflection
- April 7 (Sat.) Home