



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.richmondioocese.org/haiti/

October 2007

AN ADDITION TO THE HINCHE DIOCESAN STAFF

Bishop Louis Kebreau recently appointed Fr. Jethro Noel as diocesan coordinator of education. He will work with Richard Joseph, the director of the diocesan Office of Education, specializing in curriculum development. The diocesan educational team also includes Fr. Lévesque Bien-Aimé, the Vicar for Education—he serves as the link with the bishop as well as the pastor of the Maissade parish.



Fr. Jethro Noel and Mr. Richard Joseph

Fr. Jethro recently returned from two years study in France, where he focused on math and science education. He has a particular interest in introducing the study of ecology and respect for the environment into the diocesan curriculum.

NEW SCHOOLS OPEN

In addition to the new school building in Trianon, the Diocese of Hinche recently announced the beginning of three new schools: Notre Dame du Perpetuel Secours in the Dos Scelle chapel of the Belladère parish; one for older children (10-16 years old) in Roy-Sec, a new parish; and the other (first year of preschool) in Marché Canard, another new parish.

The Diocese of Hinche now has 85 primary and 12 secondary schools.

One particularly interesting school began last year with the first year of preschool and this year adds a second year. Across the road from the St. Martin de Porres secondary school, it is intended as a model school for train-

ing future Catholic school teachers, who will work there for a year with experienced teachers. The school will eventually have all the primary grades.



The first-year preschool at St. Martin, Hinche

FINANCIAL REPORT 2006 - 2007

With apologies for the delay, here is our financial report for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2777:

Income:

Carryover cash balance	\$20,032
Board donations	13,200
Your direct donations	6,391
Benefit Dinners	32,100
Prior year pledges collected	10,907
Refunds	<u>2,078</u>
	\$84,708

Expenditures:

Hinche Education Office support	\$23,800
Teacher formation support	15,264
English language training	3,022
Benefit dinner expenses	9,033
Printing, postage	2,620
Fees, supplies, misc.	1,058
Website services	330
Computer, scanner for Hinche	<u>2,342</u>
	\$57,469

SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AND THE DIOCESE OF HINCHE

Maria Byars, Project Officer for Haiti with SIR, wrote this article in SIR's August Bulletin about their work. "Mary's Meals" is the name for their work with providing funds to the schools of the diocese which cannot afford to provide food for the children. HEF is grateful for the generosity of Scottish International Relief toward the schools of the Diocese of Hinche, which include the Fortuné Jean-Louis School at the Maison Fortuné orphanage in Hinche.

Mary's Meals has been running in Haiti for almost a year, and the large donors who helped us get started in Port-au-Prince and Hinche have been greatly pleased with the progress and have renewed their grants for another year. This allows us to continue with our existing projects in the slum of Cite Soleil and the orphanage 'Maison Fortuné' in Hinche. At the same time, we are rolling out further expansions in Haiti in the rural areas, in the central plateau of Hinche. The Haitian school term begins in September, and 2,000 additional children are set to return to school to discover that they will receive school meals - a great start to the term, which will help school begin as it means to go on, with excellent attendance, concentration and energy!

Our plan is to continue expanding Mary's Meals in the desperately needy areas of rural Haiti, in partnership with Caritas who will help us to monitor and report on progress. We are currently working through a high-priority list of schools which was compiled by Mrs. Gaynoll Craig on her visit to Haiti earlier in 2007, during which she visited 61 schools and centres around the country, and alerted us to schools in particular need of school feeding. We hope that by tackling the worst-off schools, we will be helping many of Haiti's poorest families and easing the burden which many find so intolerable that they are forced to flee the rural areas and seek hope in the cities. The slum of Cite Soleil is a sharp reminder that hope is scant in the city: often the lure of the urban areas leads to only a fatal trap of even more abject poverty in the slums.

Research shows that the poorer the family, the higher proportion of their income goes on food. Many of the poorest families spend 70% or more of their income on food, leaving very little for other essentials such as clothing, medicines, or housing. Providing one meal a day in school for children in Haiti can translate not just into food for a child's hunger, but also into releasing money for families to survive. This may allow a parent to continue to pay rent, or help them to treat health problems that might become fatal and interfere with their ability to work - but above all, it can help alleviate some of the desperation suffered by families struggling to get by in the rural areas, and helps them survive while their children build stronger foundations for the future through education.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Four schools in the Diocese of Hinche are receiving funds for feeding programs: the orphanage's Fortuné Jean-Louis School, the Bishop Walter F. Sullivan School in Colladère, the Angoman School at Los-Palis, and the John XXIII School in Lebègue. Caritas/Hinche coordinates the program in the latter three schools, and SIR is helping Caritas' cafeteria in Hinche to provide food for 800 more students.*

BOARD PLANNING RETREAT SCHEDULED

The HEF's Board of Directors will hold a strategic planning retreat October 27 and 28 at the Shalom House in Montpelier, Virginia. The Board will be reviewing its accomplishments over the years since the death of the Fund Founder, Fr. Ron Seguin in 1992. Rooted in that history, the Board will set its goals for the immediate future.

CEP RESULTS RECEIVED

In Haiti, children must pass a government exam at the end of the 6th grade in order to be able to continue with their education. This exam is called the CEP exam. We have been collecting these results for schools in the diocese of Hinche. We have received results for 46 schools, representing nearly 13,000 students. 781 out of 1320 students who took the exam passed it, for an overall pass rate of nearly 60%. This provides a snapshot of the need to improve primary education on the central plateau of Haiti.

The results are available to anyone interested. Just email the Secretary at crubencamp@comcast.net to obtain a copy.

**Bishop Walter F. Sullivan, Honorary Director, and
The Members of the Board of Directors of the Haitian
Education Fund,
request the presence of your company
as our guest for a**

**Reception and Dinner
Benefiting the Shalom Endowment Fund of the
Haitian Education Fund of the Diocese of Richmond**

Friday, November 9, 2007

7:00 p.m. Reception

8:00 p.m. Dinner

The Greencroft Club
525 Rodes Drive
Ivy, Virginia
[off Rt. 250 west of Charlottesville]

*Ensuring the long-term financial stability of our educational
mission*

To attend, contact Br. Cosmas Rubencamp, CFX,
Fund Secretary,
804-358-6210 or crubencamp@comcast.net.

Advance Registration Requested by November 1

Business Attire

SHALOM/HAITIAN EDUCATION FUND

July 2007-June 2008 CONTRIBUTIONS

DIRECTOR LEVEL

Sharon Van De Walle

SUPERINTENDENT LEVEL

PRINCIPAL LEVEL

Anonymous
Anthony Gambardella
Clyde & June Gray

Alfred & Kathleen Gross
William Sigler
Xaverian Brothers-Baltimore

MENTOR LEVEL

Anonymous
Scott & Michelle Eichelberger

Lee Euler
Lucy Reilley

DONOR LEVEL

Anonymous
Patricia Ann Allen
Don Ayers
John & Martha Beall
Michael Bednar
Willis & Mary Blackwood
Tom & Marianne Boyle
Anthony Breen
George & Joan Bugbee
Nina Butts
Frances Chancey
Frank & Carol Doyle
Thomas Elliott

Lee Euler
Bob & Karin Ewan
Peter & Roseann Fitzpatrick
Sally Foecking
John & Louise Gaskins
Ed & Marie Gerardo
John & Elizabeth Goodwin
Jolene Green
Hilarie Hicks
James Kennedy
Peg Kennedy
Bernadette Celine Law
Valerie McAvoy

Eugene & Catherine McGahren
Alba McLinskey
Arthur Mullen
William Prince
Matthew & Jill Ryan
David Seckora
Stephen & Tracy Skrabal
James Steinman
Mary Timmins
Charles Twardy

July 2007-June 2008 Contributors to the Los Abeilles School Project

Michael Bednar

David Seckora

Check for \$_____ (please make check payable to Catholic Diocese of Richmond).
I would like to designate it for (please check one):

- Support for the general Education Fund Motorcycle fund
 Support of the diocesan school supervisors Construction of a School in Los Abeilles

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

E-mail address: _____