



A monthly newsletter to report on developments of the Volunteer Ministries in Haiti, a program of the Xaverian Brothers' supported by the Diocese of Richmond. Further information is available from the Haitian Ministry Commission, Diocese of Richmond, 811 Cathedral Place, Richmond VA 23220-4801 (telephone: 804-359-5661) (fax: 804-358-9159) (e-mail: pschwermer@richmonddiocese.org) (website: [www.richmonddiocese.org/haiti/hat111.htm](http://www.richmonddiocese.org/haiti/hat111.htm))

## LETTER FROM BROTHER HARRY ECCLES

IN THE STATES VISITORS may get only a line or so on the "Society" page of the newspaper, but here visitors are a big deal! September was blessed with two of my Xaverian Brothers: Cos Rubencamp and Mike McCarthy. Not much time, but good. Same for veteran volunteer now veterinarian, Jonathan Dohanich, here with colleagues.



The Four Xaverian Brothers in Haiti: Vincent Ilungo, Michael McCarthy, Joseph Ngoie and Harry Eccles

AS WELCOME as old friends are, the newness of newcomers doesn't last long, and we're happy to have Margaret Montgomery (teaching midwives) and her son James with us for ten weeks. James is his mother's right-hand man, and mine too. It's great to have a computer consultant, even if many of the problems are in the infrastructure. James has also become part of our Saturday morning English class. He and his mother already have their next trip planned.

WITH ALL ITS PROBLEMS, there is something that draws people back to Haiti. Nick McCann, now working and studying at Notre Dame, is coming this month. Kevin McArdle is bringing fellow seminarians in March. Come and experience the spell of Haiti!

REVERSE VISITING is a big item this month too. If you read this newsletter you know that Maison Fortuné orphanage is having an endowment fund dinner on October 19. You may

not know that the orphanage's resident observer has been invited to attend--and directed to wear a suit! A worthy cause! I'll do it! Actually, the trip to Virginia is part of a package that began with an invitation to Brooklyn to a St. Michael's Diocesan High School alumni celebration which includes recognition of alumni and faculty who have weathered well the fifty years since I was there. SMDHS events are worthy of note because the school closed just after (not because) I left. Actually, it was a planned phasing-out as the temporary facility blossomed into Xaverian High School. So I'll be on the road most of October.

A LOCAL TRIP brought me to MINUSTAH, the local UN headquarters. UN personnel are very evident, but my previous contacts have been limited to friendly waves. The complex is indeed impressive, and I can see the possibility of more contacts.

A WEEKLY TAXI TRIP takes me to Pandiassou to check on the house and garden. I'm glad to bring back avocados, limes, oranges, and sweet grapefruit. Other harvests are abetted by the quality of the land and neighbors' goats, pigs, and chickens!

SCHOOL DAYS bring me to St. Martin de Porres High School twice a week for English via the Gospel, an effort we began back in 1990. Still going strong, and with more girls in attendance!

MORE SIGNS OF SCHOOL DAYS: some of the boys are out in the yard before 5:00 a.m. studying their notebooks (textbooks are not the norm in Haiti). When I'm coming home from Mass I meet our older boys on their way to St. Martin's. A convoy of bikes!

THE ROADS really aren't too bad despite the rain, but there is increasing evidence that the water level in the earth is rising. For the past week we've had daily downpours, not long, but enough to call out the squeegee brigade for the guest house. The boys are very good, appearing with the first drops of rain to man stations at each end of the building. They enjoy it, and I enjoy their energy. They are not robots, but for a group of youngsters, they are a good squad. Meanwhile, in the yard there are other boys playing ball or simply enjoying the rain.

IN A FEW DAYS I'll be at the *Sant Zaveryen* as we begin another academic year. There I'm not an interested observer, but the problem-solver as we look to pay the ever-

rising tuition and related school bills. Fourteen young men in residence, and another bunch, female and male, coming to the door for help. It can't happen without you, and that's why we try to have a student letter in each newsletter. When you're in Port-au-Prince, try to visit the Sant. If that's not going to happen, there's email and the USPS! Above all that, keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank you! God bless you!

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### LETTER FROM DR. GENET PIERRE

*Dr. Genet Pierre is a recent graduate of the medical school at the Catholic university in Port-au-Prince (Université de Notre Dame d'Haiti). He lived at the Sant Zaverien, which is directed by Brother Harry.*

I come from Mont-Organisé, Haiti (northeast department). I am the oldest in a family of seven children and I have six sisters. My mother died in September, 1990, and fifteen years later my father died. I am fervent member and participate in a lot of activity in my Catholic parish. I have been for more than twenty years a Mass server.

During my seven years at the Sant Zaverien, I learned so many things which help me and which I found very important for me as a Christian. I like living with the other people that are not of the same family. I consider it is a grace for me to have this opportunity to live in the Sant. I was elected twice in the Sant, first as house keeper, second as procurator, and now I am the President of the Alumni Association .

We have a special person in Br. Harry. I see in him the face of Jesus Christ our Lord, because , sometimes things are very difficult for us in the Sant and Br Harry is always here to say, "Zanmi mwen, nou ka jwenn lòt rezoud" (My friends, we can find a another solution). Our motto at the Sant is "Love God and Haiti." I will never forget Br. Harry.

During two summers of my medical training, I was in France (at the Hospital Universitaire d'Amiens) and in Belgium (at the Hospital Libre de Bruxelles: ULB. Erasme). This kind of travel allowed me to learn a lot of things in medicine. I was able do those trips by the financial support of all of you who were so kind to collaborate. Thank you for all you have done for me and for all you will do for me!

Now I received certificate of Doctor in Medicine in 2006. We started in 1999 with one hundred and eleven students, but only seventy four graduated. Now I've finished my residency year, and I am doing my year of social service in a dispensary at Ferrier, near my native area (three hours by car). I am working with the peasants and see about 30-40 patients in a day in the out-patient clinic. Some of

them are referred to a hospital in Fort-Liberté when they need hospitalization (about ten minutes by car).

Keep praying especially for the Haitians peasants--they need your help.  
May God bless all of you.

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### LETTER FROM EDMOND CHOULOUTE

*Edmond Chouloute is a current resident of the Sant Zaverien, studying at the Diesel Institute of Haiti. Last month he and Brother Vincent Ilungo CFX spent some time at the Maison Fortuné Orphanage in Hinche, where Brother Harry lives.*

I come from the Artibonite Valley of northwest Haiti in the village of Eroding about 40 kms. from the town of Artibonite. My mother died in 1980 when I was three months old. I grew up with my father and my older brother. A few years ago my village was devastated by a hurricane, and it was a long time before I found that my father had survived—and longer still before I was able to visit him.

I am a resident of the Xaverian Center, where I have lived for two years with thirteen other students. This is a wonderful for us, because it is very difficult to find a group of person, who can live without problems. This center forms us, so that we become new men. We try to be the light for one another.

We are grateful to God because he gave this idea to Brother Philip [founder of the center] and Brother Harry who is present with us now, for giving young people who come from the countryside the same possibility to learn something as the rich man. Seventy-five percent of the young people of the countryside haven't the possibility to go to school after secondary school.

Even here in Port-au-Prince life has become very expensive. Sometimes Brother Harry has some problems with the economic situation and doesn't have enough money to answer what we need. Our big problem now is to get another house, because the house where we live now has become very expensive. It isn't easy to find another, but we will go on praying to God so that we can find one.

You know that those who live in the Xaverian Center have the responsibility to work as volunteers also. This is why Brother Vincent and I went to Hinche to visit in the Maison Fortuné Orphanage to work with the children .teach them some songs, and to pray with them. They were very happy, the 96 children who live in this orphanage.