

Dear Friends:

The January 12 earthquake, contrary to what one might think or imagine, galvanized all of our individual and community energies to a degree that, to be truthful, is worrisome. In order to make up for this, we needed to face that reality, meaning that the entire month of August, half of the month of September, and up to the end of December 2010 have been and will be devoted to meetings, retreats, formation activities for Little Brothers and Little Sisters of the Incarnation at various stages: postulants, novices, temporary and perpetual vows. The General Chapter of the Little Brothers of the Incarnation will take place at the end of December 2010. This Chapter is a particularly important one for us because the decisions coming from it will support—for better or worse—the next forty years for our Congregation.

The Little Sisters of the Incarnation just celebrated their 25th anniversary; we needed time to examine all that that represents for us in terms of analysis, individual and collective self-evaluation and to make provisions for the energy, determination and clear and precise vision, looking toward the next 25 years. Up to now, everything has been going well, thanks be to God. We are counting on the prayers of each and every one of you.

Additionally, the responsibility that we (the Little Brothers and Little Sisters of the Incarnation) took—at full tilt-- in receiving victims of the January 12 earthquake was to some extent beyond our human strength. In fact, as the initiators of this reception, in conjunction, of course, with the Ambassador of France and the elected local officials of the *Département*, we committed ourselves to a huge undertaking:

- Supporting the departmental committee and the various municipalities.
- Creating community soup kitchens in Hinche, Pandiassou, Dos-Palais, and elsewhere
- Taking in seriously ill and amputees from the earthquake in tents (112 all together, including parents and children) next to our clinic in Terre-Cassée.
- 700 victims (children and adults, most coming from Port-au-Prince, living under tents)
- 1,300 living in their own homes but supported by us via the community soup kitchens.
- Taking in sick people at the clinic and making house calls and organizing mobile clinics throughout the hills in order to treat people and give medicines at little or no cost
- Taking in child victims of various ages and at various grade-levels in school. In order to do this, it was necessary to hire extra teachers, buy books and school supplies for the children, and increase the number of school lunchrooms.
- Creating recreational activities for children and adults. Making potable water available.
- Agreeing to increase the number of students at the School for Agricultural Entrepreneurs. But the main reason was to mobilize young people coming from all over the country in order to produce food for the future...it is an enriching and demanding experiment that demands uncommon energy if it is to succeed. Taking in these young people for seven months instead of six. (Now their six-month practicum is beginning, at home and on family land in order to put into practice the theories and practical

applications learned at the School. Our Agronomy Teachers will visit the students at their practicum sites to verify in person the work that the students are doing. They, the students, cannot be accepted for the second year of training if their work on their family's land is not satisfactory.

- Buying and distributing seed to the peasants around Pandiassou but also in other municipalities in the Central Plateau. Thousands of peasants are benefitting from this effort.
- Sending aid to victims in the twelve municipalities of the *Département du Centre* (food, seeds, medicine) by way of the all the municipal governments of the Central Plateau.

The reality in the Central Plateau is still burdensome because we are still waiting for several NGOs who were supposed to come to work in the zone, according to Monsieur Sauval, but who have not arrived. Aside from the "Cash for Work" program, which was vital and employed several hundred individuals but which is about to end, the majority are still living in tents.

We took the necessary steps to have our Church in Pandiassou named a Marian Sanctuary in the Diocese of Hinche. The Bishop granted our request. The Congregation of the Redemptorist Fathers is already on site. There are three Haitian priests present to minister to take care of the spiritual needs of the population. It is a great grace for us.

We are also working with a Canadian NGO which has renovated the primary school at Terre-Cassée and constructed a new primary school at Dos-Palais. (The former school is an annex of the Center for street children at Dos-Palais.)

Our radio "Voice of Pandiassou. The station of laughter and smiles" is going well. It is the new People's University of Pandiassou. It is managed by local young people.

So here is some information that we wanted to share with you. We remain united in prayer and in common cause.

In brotherhood,

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