



HAITI NEWS



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Chris Elliott teaches class during the visit this summer

Fund Raising: For those who haven't tried it yet, the Haiti Ministry is still selling Dean's Beans fair trade coffee. This fundraising effort has been ongoing for over a year and most of the coffee is sold to repeat customers. The Dark Roast is a really delicious coffee and has been the most popular item. It is always available in the social hall, so stop by and check out our display!

We are also having a special St. Mary's/Our Lady of Lourdes ornament made in time for the Christmas season. These are very nice glass ball ornaments imprinted with the image of each church to honor our twinning relationship. They will be available for sale before Thanksgiving. Please keep them in mind when making your gift lists! Only a limited quantity will be available.

Other News

Priest Transfers: Our Lady of Lourdes in Belladere, our twinned parish, has a new priest Pere Gernélus Clerziné. Pere Duportal was transferred to another parish. Pere Polinice Daisma was also replaced by Pere Bertrand Desforges in Roysec for the St Joseph School in Los Abeilles. We were not notified of the pending transfers and this has caused a small setback for the ministry as we rebuild our relationships. We felt very close to Pere Duportal and Per Pol. Pere Gernélus in Belladere does not speak English so we will continue to rely on Chris Elliott for translation.

Immersion Retreat to Haiti: Sponsored by the Diocese of Richmond for Holy Week- March 31 to April 7, 2012. It is planned and designed to give the participants a firsthand experience of conditions in impoverished countries. The trip will include meetings with people who live and work in Haiti and can share their knowledge and perspectives and visits to parishes that are twinned with parishes in the Dioceses of Richmond. Applications and deposits must be received by February 15, 2012. For more information contact Paul Fletcher Fletcherpe@aol.com or 757-255-4794 or Paul Amrhein – paul@saintbridgetchurch.org or 757-525-7902.

Backpacks to Haiti

Backpacks to Haiti were collected and packed in June 2010, repacked in October 2010, in storage until November 2010, and loaded in the sea container in February 2011. The sea container arrived in Haiti June/July 2011 and cleared customs in September 2011. Finally, the backpacks were distributed to the children for school. Haiti sets its own pace!

Haiti Tidewater Gathering

The **Haiti Tidewater Regional Gathering** was held at Sacred Heart in Norfolk on November 12. Gatherings are a great opportunity to find out what other twinning parishes are doing in Haiti as well for prayer, fellowship, networking, and breakout sessions. For more information contact Paul Fletcher – Fletcherpe@aol.com or 757-255-4794.

The Christmas Spirit

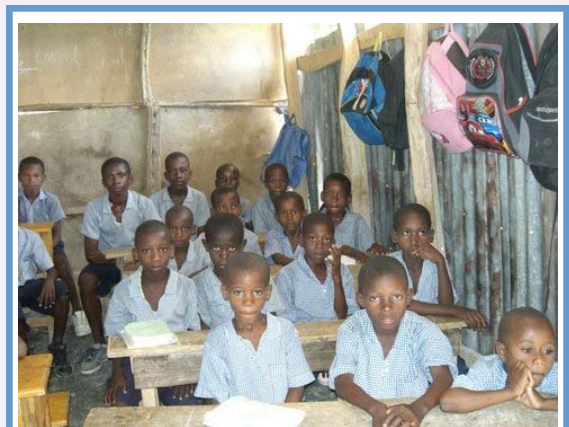
Looking for a meaningful Christmas gift? **Sponsor a Haitian Student** in honor of a friend or loved one. Only \$100 per year and tax deductible. The blessings you give and receive are immeasurable.

Thanks to the Parish

The Haiti Committee would like to thank all members of the parish who attended the **Haiti Presentation** on the June trip and the **Potluck dinner**. It was great to see you there!



St. Mary's Haiti Trip—Please consider joining the trip to Haiti scheduled for June 2012. There will be more information available in the coming months.



Eager minds ready to learn in the classroom.