

## Week Six... Together

*Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality.*

*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; never be conceited. Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all.*

—Romans 12:9-16, 18



Over the past five weeks of Lent, different voices from our partnership with the people of Bondeau, Haiti have reflected on St. Paul's words of challenging encouragement from this moving passage from the Letter to the Romans. We hope it has been a holy journey of the heart. As we now journey together with our Lord Jesus through Holy Week— as our feet and hearts are washed clean and our souls fed at the Last Supper, as we stand with Mary and John at the foot of the cross, as we come to the empty tomb on the morning of the Resurrection, and as we encounter through the power of the Holy Spirit our risen Lord— may our lives be renewed by Christ's victory over darkness and death. Alleluia! Christ is alive! Love wins!

As I reflect on the entirety of this passage perhaps the single most important insight is one that is so obvious that we take it for granted: *the Body of Christ lives life together*. We need each other. We support each other. We cry together. We rejoice together. We pray together. We love each other.

This is not easy. It takes grace, intentional discipline, and a humble spirit. It requires practicing generosity, hospitality, and forgiveness. It finds continual renewal in holy devotion and ardent worship. But all importantly, we do it together.

What distinguishes the partnership between the South Florida Haiti Project and people of Bondeau is our sacred commitment to share life together. Inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit, we face the challenges and joys of life together. Like in marriage, where each partner promises to remain faithful in prosperity and adversity, in good times and challenging times, in sickness and in health, so too, with the covenant between the South Florida Haiti Project and the people of Bondeau. We belong to each and together we belong to God through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Pray for us and join us on our journey in faith. Together.

In the love of Christ,.

—The Rev. Andrew Sherman, *Rector of St. Gregory Episcopal Church in Boca Raton, FL*  
*and South Florida Haiti Board President*

### **Prayer for this Week:**

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.