



NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE HAITIAN APOSTOLATE
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To my beloved Haitian brothers and sisters across the globe,

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” (Romans 12:12)

Each year on November 18, we remember the historic Battle of Vertières, a defining moment in our history as Haitians. It was on this day in 1803 that our ancestors, armed not only with dignity and courage but with faith, stood firm in their belief that freedom is a gift from God. Their victory did more than defeat an empire. It proclaimed to the world that the people are created in the image of God and will not live in bondage.

This week, in the midst of our social upheaval, our national soccer team brought pride to our hearts once again. With skill and perseverance, they reminded us that the Haitian spirit is still strong, still striving, and still victorious. Their win last night was more than a game. It was a reflection of the determination that lives within us all, whether in Haiti or in the Haitian diaspora.

Both moments, though centuries apart, call us to reflect on the deeper source of our strength. That strength has always come from our faith. As our motto, *L'union faith la force*.

As Catholics, our identity is deeply rooted in the Gospel. For generations, the Church in Haiti has been a place of hope and healing, of truth and transformation. In our chapels and cathedrals, in our homes and communities, we have turned to Christ for light in the darkness. We have lifted up our prayers through the intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Patroness of Haiti, asking her to walk with us in every trial and triumph.

Our faith is not something we carry only in good times. It is what sustained our ancestors at Vertières and will continue to sustain us. It is what unites us across continents. It is what gives us the strength to believe that better days are still ahead. We are a people who have suffered, but also we believe in the resurrection.

To all Haitians around the world, I say this with love and conviction: Do not give up. Do not forget who you are or where you come from. Let your faith in God be your foundation. Let the memory of Vertières and the joy of our soccer victory stir within you a renewed sense of hope and mission. Let us stand together as one people, trusting in the Lord who has always walked with us.

As we celebrate the spirit of victory and unity, I invite every Haitian at home and abroad to turn this moment into a movement of prayer. May each Haitian household dedicate a visible place where the Bible, the image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and the Haitian flag remain a source of unity for us.

Let us pray for our national soccer team. May God protect them, strengthen their bond, and guide their every step on and off the field.

Let us pray for Haiti. May the Lord bring peace to our land, healing to our people, wisdom to our leaders, and hope to every Haitian heart.

Let every Haitian home, parish, and community lift up prayers in one voice. Let our unity be found not only in celebration, but also in our shared devotion to the God who never abandons His people.

May our prayers rise like incense before the Lord. May the intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual Help continue to guard our people and renew our land.

Nou se pèp Bondye. Ann priye ansanm. We are the people of God. Let us pray together.

Pax,

Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune, C.S.
Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston
Liaison of the Haitian Apostolate in the United States