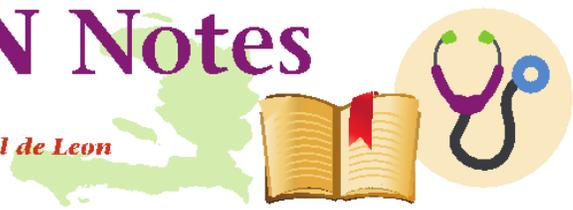


HAITI MISSION Notes

Saint Francis of Assisi Church
6701 Muncaster Mill Road
Derwood, MD 20855

Twinning with
Conversion of Saint Paul de Leon
Leon, Haiti



Fall 2016

HURRICAN MATTHEW: SISTER PARISH FACTS

By Dan Cardile

Dear Fellow Parishioners -

As you know, a large hurricane tore through Haiti on October 4, with the worst of it passing right over the area of Leon. Our sister parish, The Conversion of St. Paul, suffered extreme damage. Following the hurricane, a member of our partner organization traveled to Leon, and reported:

"Nothing looks the same. The trees and vegetation have been stripped away and it has the appearance of a large fire or a nuclear explosion. It is incredibly sad."

Since then, more news has emerged, albeit slowly. Here is the news we are able to confirm and share about Leon at this time:

- The medical clinic remains in good shape and should be operational for future clinics. We hope to send a full team down soon for another clinic.
- There are very few reported deaths in the actual town of Leon.



The trees and vegetation have been stripped away and it has the appearance of a large fire or a nuclear explosion.

- About 80 to 90 percent of the homes in Leon are destroyed or otherwise uninhabitable; people are living approximately 10 families to surviving homes.
- A new clinic for the orphan children in Leon, built in August with money raised by the Haiti Committee through a Raskob Foundation Grant was badly damaged.
- The school, Bon Pasteur, survived in tact with (apparently) only minimal damage.

- The church and the bell tower still stand, but the roof is completely gone.
- Most animals and crops were completely destroyed and washed away. There is almost no food in Leon at all.



But how can we leave them to manage on their own?

At this point, it is easy to have that feeling that wants to Give Up — it is too hard, too sad, and too uncertain. But how can we leave them to manage on their own? Would you consider a *renewed commitment* to our sister parish, by participating in fundraisers such as dinners, concerts, Hoops for Haiti, Crosses for Haiti, School Sponsors, etc.?

We are amazed how even the smallest donations, when they come together, can make an impact. Thank you for your past support – lives are changing because of you. You make all the difference!

LOOKING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD: REFLECTIONS FROM THE ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH INAUGURAL CHARITY BANQUET BENEFITING HAITI MEDICAL MISSIONS

By Hoai-An Truong

*Although we come from different backgrounds and may speak different languages, we share a common bond by the **universal language of humanity.***

Unbound by geography and with the passion for service, St. Francis of Assisi Parish (SFA) parishioners and University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) School of Pharmacy and Health Professions students and faculty, along with families,

(continued)

LOOKING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD (continued)

friends, and supporters across Maryland gathered for a time of fellowships, food, and fun. Many people from the Eastern Shore Maryland had to drive 6 hours, crossing the Bay Bridge twice in one evening to join a special reflection and charity event for our brothers and sisters in Haiti, co-incidentally after the devastating disaster hurricane Matthew.

materials and planning support. Dr. Nice shared about how he started medical missions with Mrs. Labuda and sustained over 20 years. Mr. Dan Cardile, Chair of the Haiti Committee, led the attendees with the Prayer of St. Francis and recognized committee members including: Anthony Bosnick, Ketlard Boursiquot,



Although we come from different backgrounds and may speak different languages, we share a common bond by the universal language of humanity.

The previously planned inaugural charity banquet benefiting Haiti medical missions resulted from post-mission reflection and commitment from UMES faculty and students who went on the SFA and UMES 4th medical mission in June 2016 and who witnessed the long-standing services of Mrs. Pat Labuda and Dr. Frank Nice, as well as the Haiti Committee at SFA. The purposes were to fundraise for future mission in 2017 and to celebrate SFA's 20 years of providing medical care services to the people of Haiti and over 30 years of the twinning program with St. Paul Parish in Leon, Haiti.

Beyond reflections and story-telling, approximately 200 people attended the banquet at New Fortune Restaurant in Gaithersburg, MD gathered on Saturday October 8th for a nine-course dinner, Haitian dance by Les Belles Danseuses, musical performances, karaoke, and dancing. There were also auctions and selling of Haitian paintings and crafts, soap stone and wood carvings, donated books and a business start-up package, bake sales, and photography sales. The inaugural banquet raised \$8,242.

During the banquet, Father John Dillon selected the winning tickets for attendees' door prizes and expressed appreciation for our partners, including Health and Education for Haiti, Inc. for its long-term partnership for medical missions, UMES School of Pharmacy and Health Professions who co-organized the event, and International Community Initiatives who donated in-kind

Dr. Anne Cardile, Fr. John Dillon, Pat Labuda, Carol Lindsey, Maria Lyons, Tom Lyons, Dr. Cam-Tu Nguyen, Dr. Frank Nice, Alec Niedermaier, Danielle Niedermaier, and Dr. Hoai-An Truong. Other individuals who served on the banquet planning team included Phu Cao, Maheder Dachew, Tina Truong, Jessica Wearden, and Dr. Yen Dang.

Finally, Dr. Rondall Allen, Dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, presented the UMES Community Service Partner Award to St. Francis of Assisi Haiti Committee and Health and Education for Haiti, Inc.



The inaugural banquet raised \$8,242.

Overall, it was a **spectacular** event as described by Father John. Several attendees already started asking and talking about the second annual Haiti charity banquet. If you have comments or feedback or are interested in helping with or supporting a future banquet, please reach out to Frank Nice at fjncat@hotmail.com or Hoai-An Truong at hatruong@hotmail.com. Thank you for your consideration and support for the people of Haiti.