



A Committee of St. Cecilia's Catholic Church

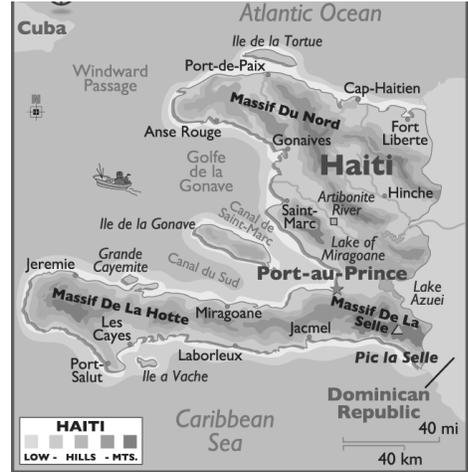
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Editor: Lynn Franco

Social Justice

Our Lady of the Assumption

Ten years ago, the Holy Family Cluster of Wright County (Belmond, Clarion and Eagle Grove) joined the Parish Twinning Program of the Americas (<http://www.parishprogram.org/>) and became a sister parish to Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Anse Rouge, Haiti. A few years later, Ron Smith of St. Cecilia Parish was in deaconate formation with Jerry Temeyer of the Holy Family Cluster and learned about Holy Family's sister parish. Deacon Ron, who serves as chaplain of the St. Cecilia Social Justice Committee, told that committee about the needs in Anse Rouge, and since that time, St. Cecilia Parish has been assisting Holy Family in helping the people of Anse Rouge.

Anse Rouge is located 90 miles north of Haiti's capitol, Port Au Prince; the trip from Port Au Prince to Anse Rouge takes about seven hours on very rough roads. The soil there is completely unproductive; it is a desert-like area with little water. The two principal economic activities are fishing and salt production. The fishermen do not have real fishing boats; they use small sailboats, which are neither safe nor secure from the wind. The conditions in the salt industry are very poor and hurricanes often destroy the production.



Holy Family Cluster members first visited Anse Rouge in 2005; they have made three medical mission trips since then. The medical mission teams (doctors, nurses, a pharmacist, and other team members) set up clinics and treat hundreds of people. Many of the clients are children, suffering from parasites and malnutrition. The team brings medical supplies, and other items, including toys and clothing for the children. In 2012, St. Cecilia parishioner Sarah Ledvina accompanied the team to Anse Rouge. Sarah was struck by the immense poverty. As the pastor said, "The misery is visible."

Holy Family funds have fed and educated the children, and provided teacher pay. In a separate campaign, Holy Family raised money to help build a school, with the people of Anse Rouge supplying the labor.

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For the past three years, St. Cecilia's Good Samaritan Fund has supported one teacher (at \$70/month) and three students (@ \$120/school year – that provides tuition, a school uniform and one hot meal per day).

Each year, the Holy Family Cluster also sends a sea crate with items for Haiti. Deacon Jerry Temeyer takes the donations to Smyrna, TN and they are shipped from there. This year, 84 parcels were shipped at a cost of \$1300. The donations included school and sewing supplies, religious items, toiletries, old eyeglasses, clothes, and toys. St. Cecilia parishioners donated money for shipping (\$200 from the Good Samaritan fund and a \$100 private donation) and two carloads of supplies, including suitcases in which to pack the donations for the two-month trip in the sea crate.

In addition to the usual needs, one-speed mountain-style bicycles are being collected for shipment in the 2014 sea crate. Durable bikes are needed for the rough terrain and one-speed bikes are desired for easier repair. Baskets on the bikes are very helpful.

For further information on Anse Rouge, please see "Haiti Medical Mission #3" on Facebook, visit www.shsjsf.org and click on *Cluster Parishes/Haiti Sister Parish*, or contact Mary Ross (232-5080) or Monica Staudt of the Holy Family Cluster (monicastaudt@yahoo.com).

"Understand that through your help to the poor churches, you contribute directly to the spread of the gospel and to the betterment of the conditions of life of these sons and daughters of God throughout the world."

**- Father Paul-Henry Dorlean,
Haiti**

Maintenance Help Needed:

There is frequently a need for maintenance help at ERP (Emergency Residence Project) for the shelter and transitional housing sites. If anyone has maintenance skills and can help, please check with Vic Moss at 232-8075 to learn of any projects you might be able to help with.

The Saint Cecilia Social Justice Committee meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Sunroom. Everyone is welcome to attend. All donations are made in accordance with Catholic Social Justice teachings. Financial reports and budget information are available from the parish office. Minutes from the meetings are posted on the parish website.