



Friends of St Anne's Maissade, Haiti

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***"Yon sel dewt pa ka
manje kalalou."***

***"You can't eat okra with
one finger."
-Haitian proverb***

Holy week in Maissade:

***On Good Friday, the
cross is carried through
the streets of the town.***

Basic Creole:

***"Bonde a Beni ou" – God
Bless You***

A note from the Pastor

Greetings from Saint Ann's parish!

You will never stop moving me by your warm solidarity. Through your contact I have been enriched spiritually regarding the mystery of the Church. I can experience how Faith and love can put people together despite the racial, cultural and economic differences. Thank you for your prayer, your visit plan and your support.

I have sent an email to the German organisation since November I do not have its answer yet. At least what I had was not complete. It mentioned a chapel construction but not the vehicle. In Haiti we say: "Dog says looking is not never too much." A manner to suggest that one needs to be patient.

Thank you for caring of Saint Ann's Church. I transmit you the fraternal greetings of my Parishioners and mine.

Fr Leveque Bien-Aime.

Let us pray....

"The harvest of justice is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace."

James 3:18

Out of the depths we cry to You, O God.

We cry to You for our Haitian sisters and brothers.

We thank you for upholding them in their suffering.

Give them continuing strength and comfort.

Give us love and courage to stand with them and work with them as they struggle for justice and freedom.

Keep us committed to the truth and empower us with your Spirit of love:

- a love that always sees possibilities for peace founded on justice;
- a love that seeks justice without vengeance and retaliation;
- a love that reaches out to enemies as Jesus taught us.

We trust in your continuing mercy as we bring you our own desire to be in active solidarity with our Haitian brothers and sisters. Amen.

Available as a Prayer Card from Pax Christi USA.

Saint Nicholas Outreach

Our mission.

Our covenant with St. Anne's is one of the oldest in the Diocese of Richmond – established in 1985.

"The concept of 'twinning' between the parishes of our Diocese and those in the Diocese of Hinche, as envisioned by Bishop Sullivan, differs importantly from the old idea of 'adopting' a poor parish because it is a relationship between equals. It is a sharing of our one faith and a strengthening of the Body of Christ through the shared experiences of our daily lives. Our relationship to St. Anne's parish in Maissade not only involves a commitment of our abundant resources, but also entails a personal relationship with the devout people of that remote and difficult land. The motto "We shall walk together" was adopted from the outset and is the way in which both parishes view this relationship."

"In sum, the purpose of the ministry is to deepen the Faith and concern of our people at St. Nicholas living in an affluent American suburb by experiencing close up the sufferings and joys of devout but impoverished Catholic people." June 27, 1989 letter from St. Nicholas Haitian Outreach Committee to the Parish council.

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We're on the Web!
www.stnicholasvb.com/st_haiti.html

Did you know?

In Haiti, free public education is sporadic and non-existent in many rural areas. Only 3% of rural children ever complete elementary school. 80% of the population is illiterate.

How can we help?

Pray, pray, and pray some more...

There is nothing more powerful than prayer. Remember Pere Leveque and his people daily.

"Let Haiti Live" Campaign.

Two key issues:

1. Modification of U.S. immigration law and policy, which singles out Haitians for harsh, unjust treatment.
2. Lifting the U.S. embargo on humanitarian loans to Haiti.

For more information: www.haitireborn.org

Celebrate the Feast of St. Anne in Maissade July 23-31

We see from where we stand, and to stand with the poor is to begin to see God. Who's committed? Mercy Kelley, Steve Tempesco, Paul & Lynda Metzger, and Mary Ellen Crocker. We have room for two or three more. Call Mercy (340-1390) or Lynda (463-9898) for more information.

Check out our web site.

Connect to www.stnicholasvb.com/st_haiti.html to see "Faces of Maissade" – pictures taken during the Diocesan Retreat in December 2002. Thanks to Tim McCarthy for sharing his photos!

Continue your support.

We will hand-deliver your letters this summer. Enclose photos of your family or parish events! Twinning is all about sharing our lives with each other!