



Friends of St Anne's Maissade, Haiti

January 2003

Volume 1, Number 1

*"Men anpil, chay pa
lou."*

*"With many hands,
the load is not
heavy."*

-Haitian proverb

A note from the Pastor

From e-mail dated December 13, 2002

After more than two months of relaxing vacation in the States. I return to Maissade warmly welcomed by the Parishioners. Everything was running as though I was there. Liturgy, Ministry, School, the rectory were perfectly organized. It is a blessing to have such devoted collaborators.

I flew back to Haiti in November 26th. In the other day I was driven up to Maissade by my trustyworthy cousin, Fr Cassagnol. Three days after my arrival, my ministry called me to a chapel that had to celebrate its patronal feast, Sant Andrew. In December 5th, I went to the mountains, Bois Rouge Chapel to celebrate another feast in the other day.

In the afternoon, I was back to Maissade to welcome The Justice and Peace Committee of Richmond Diocese. That was an amazing grace: A Parishioner of St Nicholas, Tim Maccarthy was of the group and could attend mass celebrated in honour of Saint Nicholas to the intentions of the Pastor and the Parishioners of St Ann's Sister parish.

Tim saluted the people on behalf of his fellow parishioners....

The High School, Mgr Leonard-Petion Laroche, is running well. 39 students are attending it. God afforded me the blessing to have nice students and good collaborators....

(Accompanied by Tim McCarthy and the other visitors from Virginia,) we had a stop to visit the property, fruit of St Nicholas Parishioners' Solidarity. They could see how huge it is, some crops such as sorgho, grafted mango trees, planten, and close to the rectory my plantain and cocoa plantation....

I had much satisfaction to be among my flocks. I thank God for having conserved me so safe during my vacation. Everything has been done to make me feel at home when I was at Saint Nicholas' and I guessed that through so warm welcome I always enjoyed, there was a secret plan to make me forget Haiti is my very home. You can imagine that my only disappointment was the constant efforts I had to do to remember that my country was Haiti.

Thank alot once more. God bless Saint Nicholas' parishioners and the Twinning Committee

Fr Leveque Bien-Aime.

Let us pray....

Gracious God, we lift up our brothers and sisters of St. Anne's parish in Maissade. Open our eyes that we will recognize the various ways in which we can help them. May your spirit encourage and energize us in our ministry. We pray in Jesus' name.
Amen

Saint Nicholas Outreach

Pere Leveque ordered his truck! Ask Tim McCarthy about seeing him returning from one of his mountain chapels on a mule.

Many children will have their tuition and school fees paid from the Christmas gift board - \$1200!

Our fourth grade Christian Formation students sent special Christmas greetings to the children of St. Anne's.

Did you know?

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere. Unemployment is estimated at 70%. Average individual income is less than US\$250 per year.

How can we help?

Haiti is so far away and its problems so extensive. Where do we start?

[Pray, pray, and pray some more...](#)

There is nothing more powerful than prayer. Remember Pere Leveque and his people daily. We plan to include a special prayer in each newsletter. If you want to submit a prayer for our next newsletter, sent it to haiticonnection@earthlink.net.

[Observe Haiti Solidarity Week February 1-9](#)

Read the newspaper with a heart for Haiti.

Prepare a simple meals – beans and rice, a little meat.

Turn off your lights – the rectory has generator power two hours per day.

[Visit Maissade](#)

Saint Nicholas is planning a parish trip to Haiti July 23-31, 2003. We'll spend some time in Port-au-Prince before heading up the mountains to the Plateau Central where Hinche and Maissade are located. We will be in Maissade for the Feast of St Anne! Space is limited. Call Mercy Kelley, 340-1390, for more information.

[Continue your support of Pere Leveque's vision.](#)

Pere Leveque has big plans for his parish community – education for the children through parish schools, scholarships for seminary and college students, agricultural and animal breeding projects on parish land (bought with St. Nicholas support), and more. To donate, please use the blue envelopes available in the commons or in the parish office.

Contact Pere Leveque:

Fr. Leveque Bien-Aime
B.P. 1594
Presbytere de Maissade
Haiti,
W.I.

leleb52@hotmail.com

Contact us:

Saint Nicholas Church
Haitian Outreach
Committee
712 Little Neck Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Phone:
(757) 340-7231

Editor: Lynda Metzger
haiticonnection@earthlink.net

We're on the Web!
www.stnicholasvb.com