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***Keeping Haiti
 in Our Hearts***



Dear Mission Friends:

We all must choose our battles, although it is shameful that, in this 21st century after the birth of Jesus, there are still so many from which to choose. One battle whose enormity continues to exceed most others at this time is against the complete and utter devastation caused by the recent earthquake in Haiti.

An example of one who agrees is Fr. Joseph O'Brien, O.P., who is Executive Director of the St. Therese HIV/AIDS Outreach Center in Henderson, NV. His center had received a donation of several palates of shrink-wrapped clothing for distribution to those he serves, but in a call last week, he said, "I truly believe these clothes are meant to go to Haiti."

Many of you responded generously to our plea in the

March newsletter for support for the Haitian Dominicans and their ministries. At this printing we have received almost \$13,000.00 and our prayers of gratitude go out to you for your sacrifice and your compassion. Now, as May 1 is the official start of Haiti's rainy season, we are echoing that plea because the rebuilding of homes, communities, and lives will be an arduous, long-term project.

The recent history of Haiti, long-known to be the poorest nation in the Western hemisphere, could easily lead us to believe that it is a God-forsaken country.

Thousands of Haitians were killed and thousands missing, many buried under fallen buildings. Of those who survived, most are homeless, living on streets scattered with human corpses, animal carcasses, raw sewage, and unidentifiable debris.

Though this sounds like a description from after the earthquake, it is actually a paraphrase of a report after a horrendous tropical storm hit Haiti in 2008. And prior to that disaster, visiting journalist Randall Frame, in a 2004 award-winning essay, "Fixing Haiti," described the Haitians'



Haiti, even before the earthquake!



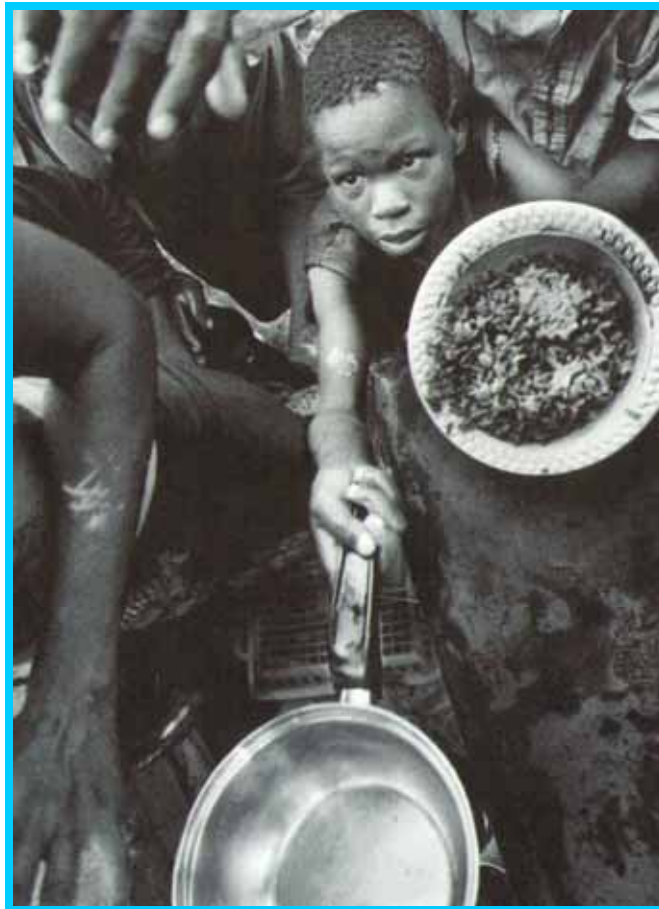
“suffering, the sense of helplessness, the pain of broken dreams, or worse, no dreams at all.” He wrote, *“I won’t soon forget the images of skinny dogs and even skinnier people ravaging the same garbage heaps...Of naked children who lived in rudimentary tin shacks, whose toys were limited to rocks...Of long lines of people waiting patiently for nothing more than a bowl of rice and beans and a cup of clean water...Elderly...curled up along the roadsides, sleeping on the hard ground, bony arms their only pillow.”* If, as Frame wrote in 2004, *“...nearly half its adult population can neither read nor write...finding enough food to make it through the day is virtually a full-time job...the road system is so obsolete... [and its] political and justice systems [are] rife with bias and corruption...,”* **how must it be now?**

While painfully graphic and difficult to look at, the pictures herein, courtesy of Fr. Thomas Son, a Redemptorist priest living in Port-au-Prince, help to answer that question.





God has not forsaken Haiti, however, as evidenced by the countless groups and individuals, God's creations all, who have been giving what they can since long before the earthquake, and by the tremendous numbers who have newly stepped up to help since then, including so many of you, our mission friends. **But it is going to be a long, difficult journey to rebuild the country, not simply back to pre-earthquake conditions, but to a quality of life to which all human beings are entitled.** We must continue down that path how ever we can and as long as we can—by praying, educating ourselves and others on Haiti's ongoing condition, offering our talents if practicable, and donating financially if possible. **While we cannot do everything, we must do something.**



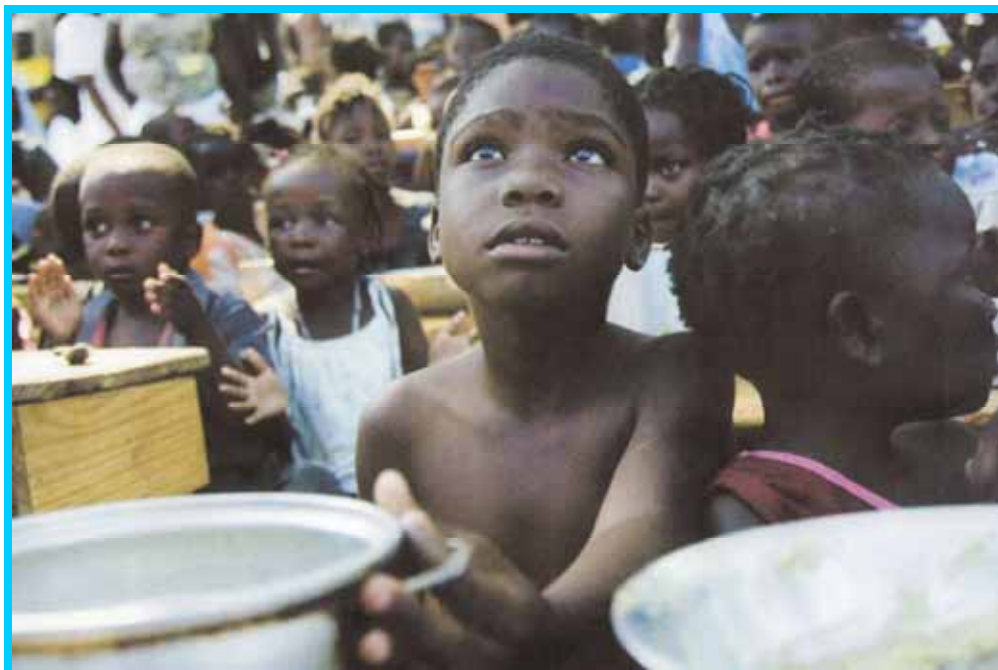
If you would like to send a donation to the Dominican ministry in Haiti, please designate it as such and mail to:

**Dominican Mission
Foundation
P.O. Box 15367
San Francisco, CA
94115-0367**

Donations will be forwarded directly to the Friars in Haiti.



In Peace and Hope,
Lesley Warnshuis



JUNE '10 MISSION APPEALS

We have been invited to speak on our missionary work at the weekend Masses of the following parishes. If you are in the area, please come and meet our Dominican preachers.

June 26-27

St. Anne's

Ridgecrest, CA

Preaching: Fr. Timothy Conlan, OP

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Bishop, CA

Preaching: Fr. David Orique, OP