



From the Pastor's Desk:

On New Year's Day, Catholics of Haitian ancestry gathered together to celebrate their faith in the Sacred Liturgy of the Holy Mass. This weekend we join our hearts with these holy people of Haiti as they pray for their families and friend who are immersed in a drama caused by a natural disaster, an earthquake. An already impoverished country finds itself wrapped in a veil of sorrow, pain and tears in the midst of unbelievable destruction.

Today's second collection will be taken for the relief efforts to which our Diocese will contribute on our behalf. We will continue to follow the needs and respond as we can for the best interest of the needs of these people of God. They are our brothers and sisters in Christ, members of our Church family who cry out to us in need. I know you will be exceedingly generous, as usual.

But closer to home, I ask for your prayers for the family and dear friends of Fr. Moise Aime, our Haitian priest residing and working with us here at OLPH. I have watched the silent sadness in his eyes as he awaits word from some source in his native Haiti. As of this writing there is no word, hopefully by this reading we will have more information to share with you. No matter what I pledge our parish's help to Fr. Moise and his family in whatever way we may find ourselves able to assist.

We are so blessed in our country with the ability to respond rapidly and efficiently to disasters. It may take a little time to evaluate the situation and needs, but once the ball rolls we have a nation ready and able to respond to a 911 terrorist attack, a devastating Hurricane Katrina, destructive Tornado or a 7.0 earthquake. A country like Haiti, and many others like it, has little or nothing. But what we have we give freely and generously. We are the most generous nation in the world and that is what truly makes us great.

We share something very special with the Haitian people, namely, our Catholic Faith. It is this faith that gives all of us the courage to face tragedy and disaster with trust that God will pull us through this no matter what the situation or ultimate circumstances and outcome. When we face tragedy with God as our strength He comes to us in the strength or outstretched hands of our neighbors whether that neighbor is next door, down the street, or thousands of miles away.

As we reach out to the people of Haiti we must know, in faith, that God will bless us in the peaceful joy of knowing that we have been the hands of God in action. This is the faith of the Church, the faith that is Jesus Christ present among us in the Eucharist come alive in each person. Please continue to pray and I will keep you informed as to the condition and needs of the family of Father Moise. He is a blessing to us and to the Haitian community of Wyandanch and the diocese. We join in prayer with them for their loved ones. We join in prayer with all of the Haitian families of our diocese. Grant them peace, O Lord.

May God +bless you, and yours, now and forever.

Father Anthony