

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for Peace and Justice



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

TEL (312) 534-8637
FAX (312) 534-3856

Memorandum

To: Pastors/Administrators
From: Adrienne Curry, Program Director CRS
Date: 1/11/2012
Re: Haiti Earthquake Two-Year Anniversary

As we mark the beginning of a new year, we pause to remember our brothers and sisters in Haiti as we approach the two-year commemoration of the earthquake. On January 12, 2010 lives were changed forever and two years later, although many severe obstacles remain, countless testimonies to faith and perseverance abound throughout Haiti. CRS continues to walk together with the Church in Haiti on a path of rebuilding and renewal, a path winding through 6 neighborhoods that include over 10,000 transitional homes where tent cities once existed; a path previously impassable with rubble, now teaming with new construction businesses, bakeries, artisan shops, churches, parks and community clinics. A path that Haitians walk with partners from all over the world towards a brighter future.

Where possible, CRS is working directly with the Haitian government to strengthen its capacity. In areas like health, education and waste management CRS is partnering with the relevant government ministry in programs designed to provide badly-needed public services to poor communities. We are also in the assessment phase of a program to improve access to and quality of education across Haiti, together with the Episcopal Commission for Catholic Education, the Ministry of Education and the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

Achievements

- CRS implemented a community resettlement program to help 10,000-plus families resettle in Port-au-Prince by providing key services in selected communities, such as transitional shelter, clean water, sanitation, protection, demolition, rubble removal and house repairs.
- Some 10,600 transitional shelters were built. These are sturdy but modest, quake and storm-resistant buildings that enable people to leave the homeless camps and move back to their original neighborhoods. A number of community buildings such as clinics and schools were also constructed.
- Teams organized by CRS performed over 1,000 emergency operations through ongoing support to St. Francois de Sales Hospital and conducted over 71,000 outpatient consultations at hospitals and camps. CRS is funding the construction of a new St. Francois de Sales Hospital, a state-of-the-art medical facility, in partnership with the Catholic Church and the Haitian Ministry of Health. Upon completion it will also become a training facility to provide medical training to Haitian physicians and nurses.

- CRS implemented a major cholera response starting just one day after the outbreak was confirmed, including the distribution of soap, water purification tablets and hygiene guidance to 22,000 families, the installation/repair of sanitation infrastructure and increased disinfection and maintenance of facilities in 12 settlements in Port-au-Prince. CRS supported cholera treatment units in 11 hospitals and clinics across Haiti. Overall, CRS has reached over 2,270,772 people through our cholera programming (recipients of treatment and/or prevention messages).
- More than 16,000 metric tons (about 1,763 typical U.S. dump truck loads) of rubble has been recycled through the use of hand-cranked rubble crushing machines supplied by CRS to at least 32 beneficiary entrepreneur groups (these are large groups, typically of a dozen or so workers). This rubble has been used for the foundations of more than 4,500 transitional shelters and more than 300 latrines.
- CRS has registered 1,126 separated or unaccompanied children for family tracing and reunification services, of whom 588 have been reunited with their families. The rest continue to receive interim care and support. Some 7,880 people such as community workers and members, have also been trained in child protection issues and psychologists are available in the Port-au-Prince neighborhoods that are part of our community resettlement program: Christ Roi, Petionville, Carrefour, Mais Gate and Solino.
- CRS provided food to more than one million people (10 million meals) and continues to provide monthly food rations to more than 50,000 children in more than 250 schools, orphanages and childcare centers.
- CRS created short-term employment that has benefited 12,000-plus people through cash-for-work activities that provide income to vulnerable people and benefit communities through improved infrastructure.
- CRS installed 1,328 latrines, wash stations, potable water tanks and inflatable water bladders in Port-au-Prince and surrounding area. Over 6 kilometers of drainage canal has been constructed or rehabilitated for flood prevention. Hygiene education sessions were conducted for 68,840 people and 1,175 water and latrines monitors and hygiene volunteers trained.
- CRS provided 8,062 beneficiary families with livelihoods support through vouchers valued at \$40 per family, allowing them to choose from a variety of seeds. These vouchers allowed them to take advantage of the planting season and recover from loss of crops after Hurricane Tomas- an approach that also benefits local seed suppliers and the local Haitian economy. CRS chose to work through local vendors and suppliers which facilitated a quicker response and stimulated the local economy.
- Strengthened the CRS partnership unit in Haiti and created another in the U.S., which together have provided assistance to numerous Church partners in Haiti. More than \$1,500,000 in cash and in-kind support was provided to partners within the first several months of the disaster response. A small projects grant was launched, and \$1,100,000 was distributed to 206 projects in all 10 of the dioceses in Haiti. The U.S. Partnership Unit provided training on best practices in parish partnership in 7 dioceses across the U.S. Planning is underway for a national Haiti partnership conference June 1-3 at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Prayer and General Intercessions for Haiti

Creator God, encourage us as we lift up our sisters and brothers in Haiti. We honor your creation and we ask for continued blessings as recovery work continues in Haiti.

Help us to know that we are connected, grant us your peace when we feel conflicted, hold us in your love especially when we feel stretched.

As we serve you, grant to us the guidance and the wisdom that will teach us to honor and share your vast resources, your call to peace and your love.

We ask this through your son Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Intercessions

Response: Creator God, hear our prayer

For the Church, that we commemorate the second anniversary of the earthquake in Haiti, not as a disaster, but as an example for the church to come together in the compassionate recovery efforts, we pray to the Lord...

For world leaders, that they work together to provide the needed resources to sustain the recovery efforts in Haiti, we pray to the Lord...

For the people of Haiti, that they find continued opportunities to work together to rebuild their own communities as they recover from the earthquake in Haiti, we pray to the Lord...

For those of us gathered today, help to share our vast resources and work to sustain security and peace in Haiti as well as in our own communities, we pray to the Lord...

Evening Prayer of Remembering and Hope Commemorating the January 12, 2010 Earthquake in Haiti

Lighting is dimmed in the worship space. As congregants enter they may light a votive candle and take it with them into the sanctuary. The service will begin in silence.

Leader: We gather this evening in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us take a moment of silence to remember in prayer all those who died or who suffered losses in the earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010.

Silence

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Blessed are You, O God, creator of all that exists. Tonight we light our candles in remembrance of all those who died or who lost a loved one in the terrible earthquake that struck Haiti. We lift our voices in prayer to stand with the people of Haiti as they grieve their losses and as they struggle to recover from the earthquake and from other more recent disasters. We know that your light will banish the night. Through our presence tonight we commit to be your light to Haiti and to bring hope to a country in desperate need. Amen. *Candles are extinguished.*

Psalm 141

(May be recited or sung. Possible sung versions are Haugen or Proulx)

Lord, I call to you; come quickly to help me; listen to my plea when I call.

Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening sacrifice

Set a guard, Lord, before my mouth, a gatekeeper at my lips.

Do not let my heart incline to evil, or yield to any sin. I will never feast upon the fine food of evildoers.

Let the just strike me; that is kindness; let them rebuke me; that is oil for my head. All this I shall not refuse, but will pray despite these trials.

When the leaders are cast over the cliff, all will learn that my prayers were heard.

As when a farmer plows a field into broken clods, so their bones will be strewn at the mouth of Sheol.

My eyes are upon you, O God, my Lord; in you I take refuge; do not strip me of life.

Guard me from the trap they set for me, from the snares of evildoers.

Into their own nets let all the wicked fall, while I make good my own escape.

During the recitation of the Psalm the leader may place incense in a thurible or bowl with charcoal.

Psalm Prayer

All: Loving God, we know that you receive the prayers we send up to you. May they be a source of healing for all those who suffer in Haiti, and of strength to each of us gathered here this evening, so that we all may hear and respond to the distressed cries of your people in Haiti and of all those who suffer. Amen.

Psalm 34

(May be sung or recited. Possible song: The Cry of the Poor, Foley)

I will bless the Lord at all times; praise shall be always in my mouth.

My soul will glory in the Lord that the poor may hear and be glad.

Magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.

I sought the Lord, who answered me, delivered me from all my fears.

Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

The Lord has eyes for the just and ears for their cry.

The Lord's face is against evildoers to wipe out their memory from the earth.

When the just cry out, the Lord hears and rescues them from all distress.

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted, saves those whose spirit is crushed.

Many are the troubles of the just, but the Lord delivers from them all.

God watches over all their bones; not a one shall be broken.

Evil will slay the wicked; those who hate the just are condemned.

The Lord redeems loyal servants; no one is condemned whose refuge is God.

Psalm Prayer

All: Merciful God, we find our refuge in you. We know you are watching over all of us, and in particular over the people of Haiti and all people who suffer. As your loyal servants, give us the courage to seek justice and healing for our broken world.

Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4

Reflection

The Leader may offer a reflection about a local project in Haiti, or read the following description of how CRS is rebuilding hope in Haiti.

This reflection is from a recent trip to Haiti sponsored by the Catholic Relief Services' Global Fellows Program. Haiti Visit: Resolve, Determination, Love

Our first full day in Haiti was very eye opening. The headlines describes exactly what I saw and felt from our contact with these beautiful people. First, their resolve was evident in their actions, faces and voices. The neighborhood called Delmas 62, though completely destroyed, asked CRS to help them; however, we were unable to get our trucks and other supplies into the neighborhood. CRS said we will provide you with the tools to remove the rubble and then we might be able to help you. Several weeks later the committee showed up at the CRS office and said come see what we have done. When our staff arrived they were in awe. With wheel barrows and hammers they cleared the rubble of destroyed homes allowing CRS to assist with temporary housing. Two ladies and one man led the charge and the neighbors worked together to make it happen.

As Sinthia led us through the village names Delmas #62, she beamed as she showed us her home. Adorned with curtains, a green door and her family gathered around she told us her story. Her neighborhood now has 40 temporary structures as a result of three neighbors leading the charge. They weren't looking for a hand out, but a hand up.

Thanks to wonderful Catholic Christians in parish families around the U.S. CRS was able to provide.

Sinthia's story is one of great resolve, but also of great love. She didn't stop when she had her family in a home. She has helped over 40 families put a roof over their heads. She and her friends are determined to create a wonderful place for their families and friends. A wonderful place, out of tragic, desperate living conditions. Her love for those around her who are suffering is evident in her actions and by the smile on her face and the love in her voice as he told her story.

Sinthia's story is but one example, but it is the story of thousands of Haitians who aren't looking for a hand out, but simply want a hand up, a chance for a better life and CRS is working side by side to do just that. With God's grace Haiti and all Haitians will rise from the rubble.

Deacon Bill Hampton, Archdiocese of Atlanta

Response: Canticle of Mary (Luke 1:46-55)

May be sung or recited. Leader may again place incense in the thurible. As a sign of solidarity, the Canticle may be recited in Haitian Creole. You may also consider singing the Canticle in English and reciting it in Haitian Creole.

Collection

Some parishes or communities may have projects in Haiti that they support. At this time the leader may invite congregants to contribute to a selected project, or to the work of Catholic Relief Services.

Prayers of the Faithful: Litany of Remembering and Hope

Leader: Gracious God, You are our refuge, our strength, and our light. With confidence we lift our prayers up to you for the people of Haiti stricken by earthquakes, floods, disease, and poverty. Please respond: *Comfort your people, O God.*

For those who died

For those who were injured

For the orphans, the widows, and the sick

For all who lost loved ones

For those who lost their home or their livelihood

For those living in tent camps

For devastated communities

For all people in need

Leader: Please respond: You are the hope of all creation, O God.

In thanksgiving for neighbors, friends, families and churches that have responded with generosity to the Haiti disasters and to disaster all over the world.

For relief workers and emergency personnel involved in rebuilding...

For doctors and medical workers treating victims of cholera...

For the Haitian people, who show the courage and strength to go on, to rebuild, and to life...

For each of us gathered here tonight, that we may be inspired by God's generosity and the courage of the

Haitian people to reach out in love and contribute to the rebuilding of Haiti...

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader may invite congregants to recite the Lord's Prayer together, each in their native language.

Sign of Peace

Closing Prayer

Leader: God of compassion, may we hold in our hearts all those who have suffered losses in Haiti. May our hearts be moved to acts of generosity and kindness toward those in need. May our lives be beacons of your light, love, and hope. We ask this through Your Son Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever, and ever.

All: Amen.

Closing Song

Suggested: For the Healing of the Nations (Kaan)