



# THE HAITIAN TIMES



Entrance at the new NMH

## Capital Campaign Launched For NMH

A capital campaign to raise money to pay for the new Norwich Mission House in Port-au-Prince and for improvements to the property was launched this fall.

With the goal of \$300,000, the campaign is intended to cover all the basic costs of acquiring the house and the initial repairs and renovations there.

From its inception, the ministry in Haiti has sought to create a permanent presence in the country. The new ownership stands as a significant landmark for the ministry, in ways both tangible and intangible that will be felt for many years to come.

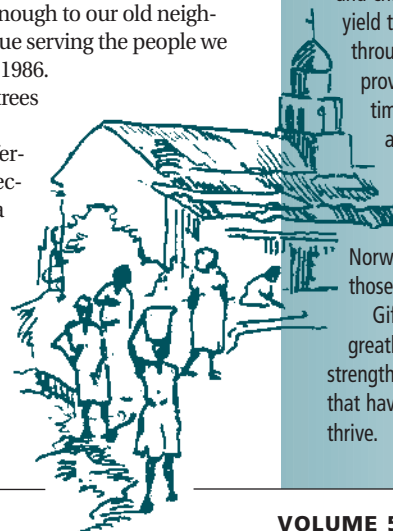
In the weeks and months ahead, the ministry will appeal to all its supporters and friends, in hopes that they can contribute to funding the new mission house.

The campaign offers various donation plans, which can be based on a 24-month giving period. In addition to pledged cash gifts, donations can be in the form of appreciated securities and properties. Tax laws are designed to encourage donations to religious and charitable organizations, and donations yield tax advantages that can be realized through federal, state and inheritance tax provisions. Also, spreading payments over time can enable donors to take greater advantage of those deductions.

To recognize the generosity of donors, the ministry will have a plaque displayed prominently at Norwich Mission House with the names of those who have given \$5,000 or more.

Gifts of all amounts will, of course, be greatly appreciated. It has always been the strength and caring of supporters and friends that have made the ministry and its mission thrive.

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## A New Home For The Mission In Haiti

BY AMBER WALSH • *Acting Director, NMH*

After 17 years of renting a residence in Port-au-Prince, the Haitian Ministries has solidified its mission to have a permanent presence in Haiti by purchasing a home for the Norwich Mission House.

While this is a major investment for the ministry and its supporters, it also is a major affirmation of our commitment to Haiti and her people. Father Gerry Kirby, Noreen Gibson, the entire Haitian staff, and I are all extremely enthusiastic about the new house and the possibilities it provides both for our visitors and for the people we support in our mission of "Helping Haitians Help Haitians."

The house, in a neighborhood called Morne Hercule, is on a dirt road just south of the Petionville marketplace and slightly north of our former residence on Delmas

60. Morne Hercule is a mixed neighborhood, shared by the rich and the poor. Upper class Haitian business owners in this area for the last 50 years live side-by-side with the poor. This mix presents many possibilities for collaboration and outreach with our new neighbors and the many schools and small businesses along the streets. The location is close enough to our old neighborhood to allow us to continue serving the people we have worked with there since 1986.

With an ample yard full of trees and grass (not so common in Haiti), the house provides different spaces for retreat and reflection for our visitors. There is a variety of trees and plants on the property, including mahogany, cherry, palm and coconut trees, a mango tree, and several Jaune d'Oeuf, now a rare fruit tree in Haiti.

Sitting atop a small ridge,

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## OUR CONDOLENCES

We offer our deep sympathy to Paula Thybulle, director of Foyer des Filles de Dieu and Clinic Notre Dame des Lourdes, and her family as they mourn the death of her son Clarens on Oct. 1. Please join us in praying for Paula, her son Renan, and Clarens' children, Najela and Rudolph.

We also offer our condolences to the Franciscan community of Acquin and the family and religious community of Sr. Althea Jonis, OSF. Sr. Althea died Sept. 9 after living the past few years with bone cancer.

## Capital Campaign

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For more information on the campaign, please contact: Emily Smack, Office of Haitian Ministries, Diocese of Norwich, 1595 Norwich-New London Turnpike, Uncasville, CT 06382; or at 860-848-2237 ext. 206; or at haiti.ministry@snet.net.

## OTHER NEWS FROM HAITI



*Dominique Georges, a NMH staff member, is among those learning auriculotherapy.*



*Clinic under construction at Gran Bwa.*

### A Special Visit

Thanks from the staff of La Maison L'Arc-en-Ciel, the parish of St. Pierre in Gran Bwa, and the patients at Hospital San Fils in Port-au-Prince go out to Dr. Joseph Reneson for his return visit to Haiti.

Dr. Reneson, from Middletown, Conn., specializes in auriculotherapy, an acupuncture treatment with the ear. In Haiti this fall, he spent several days treating patients in Gran Bwa, as well as working with patients at San Fils and training the staff at L'Arc-en-Ciel, which is a residence for children with AIDS and HIV. *Mèsi anpil, Joe!*

### Demand For Scholarships Grows

The Tierney-Tobin Memorial Scholarship Fund now supports the education of 110 Haitian children during a time of dramatic increases in the costs of schooling.

The program covers school tuitions, loans school books, and commits to continuing its support to all the students as long as they maintain their grades.

Many requests by children and their families to become part of the scholarship program must be denied, and the waiting list continues to grow.

For more information about the scholarship fund, or to donate to the education of a Haitian, please contact the Office of Haitian Ministries.

### City Of God Hopes To Expand

An orphanage for 45 girls in the Village de Deus (City of God) recently became a program supported by Haitian Ministries.

Centre d'Accueil FCCM (Welcome Center), locat-

ed in a densely populated and extremely impoverished neighborhood, would like to renovate and expand, in part, by joining the two adjacent buildings that constitute the orphanage.

The founder and director of the orphanage, Brother St. Vistal, hopes to create a larger, more secure center for the girls who live there. He would like to build more dormitory space, a hall to feed 150 children (those in the orphanage and others), and spaces for educational seminars and for recreation.

To help in the proposed \$62,000 construction, James Cavnar, president of Cross International, a Christian organization based in Boca Raton, Fla., has committed to matching dollar-for-dollar, up to \$31,000, any contribution to Haitian Ministries for the project.

Please consider helping Brother St. Vistal in his vision for a safe haven for the children of City of God.

### Fr. Gerry Visits Parishes

During the summer and fall, Fr. Gerry participated in several parish feasts throughout the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince.

He joined the Cathedral parish in the capital city on Aug. 15 in celebrating the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In September, he participated in the celebration of Confirmation and the celebration of the patronal feast of St. Michael in the San Fils section of Port-au-Prince. He also attended the feast of St. Jude and presided at the Eucharist with that community on Oct. 28.

On the Feast of All Saints, Fr. Gerry participated in the founding of a new parish, St. Thèrese in Darbonne, near Léogane, at which Bishop St-Hillien was installed as the first pastor. He joined the parish of St. Charles in Carrefour for the celebration of their feast on Nov. 4.

Fr. Gerry also spent time at the parishes of St. Pierre, Ganthier, St. Thèrese, Lillavois, Our Lady of Lourdes, Cite Militaire and Our Lady of the Presentation, Les Palmes.

He visited the new parish of Zoranje with the founding pastor and helped Fr. Frixmer in choosing a house for the parish rectory.



*Father Gerry with children at L'Arc-en-Ciel.*

## TWINNED PARISHES

### A New Covenant For Twinning

The parishes of Les Palmes and St. Mary's in Coventry, Conn., signed a Diocesan Twinning Covenant on Nov. 30.

The covenant formalizes a longtime relationship between the two parishes, and over the years, St. Mary's has assisted the schools and various projects in Les Palmes.

Earlier in November, a group from St. Mary's joined Fr. Gerry for the celebration of the patronal feast and the 50th anniversary of the parish of The Presentation of The Blessed Virgin Mary in the mountainous parish outside Port-au-Prince.



Fr.  
Boniface  
and  
Fr. Gerry in  
Conn. this  
summer.

### Haitian Pastors Visit Connecticut

In July, Fr. Horelle Fleuriscat, pastor of St. Thèrese, Lillavois, visited his twin parish of St. Patrick in Collinsville.

Also in July, Fr. Boniface Sénat, pastor of St. Pierre, Gran Bwa, visited his sister parish of Sacred Heart, Groton.

*Both pastors enjoyed their visits immensely and are grateful for the opportunity to spend time and celebrate Eucharist with their sisters and brothers in Connecticut.*

### Wisconsin Group At NMH

A delegation of youth and adults from Our Lady of Lourdes in Milwaukee visited Norwich Mission House in August.

For the past few years the parish has been twinned with NMH. For this visit, the parishioners brought backpacks for students in the Tierney-Tobin Memorial Scholarship Fund Program and covered books for the school-children.

*We are very grateful for the continued prayer and support from our sisters and brothers of Our Lady of Lourdes. May we always remain united in prayer for one another.*

### Uncasville Parish Learns About L'Arc-en-Ciel

In September, Fr. Gerry accompanied Danielle and Robert Pénette to St. John's in Uncasville, a Connecticut parish twinned with La Maison L'Arc-en-Ciel.

Members of the parish became better acquainted with Robert and Danielle, who founded and run L'Arc-en-Ciel, a residence for children with AIDS and HIV. Parishioners also learned more about their work with these children and their families.

During the past year, L'Arc-en-Ciel has increased its outreach and has added another sociologist and a child psychologist to its staff.

## HAPPENINGS STATESIDE

### Car Donations Wanted

Need to get rid of an old vehicle, but you can't sell it and no one will take it off your hands?

You can donate the car, truck or van for a tax deduction, and help the Office of Haitian Ministries.

The Car Factory Outlet in Middletown will take your vehicle and appraise it for your tax deduction. In turn, the ministry will collect a portion of the vehicle's value from the Car Factory.

For more information, call Lou Soboleski, at Car Factory Inc., 117 East Main St., Middletown, Conn. 06457, at 860-344-0750.

### A Bit Of What's Needed

To replace equipment and replenish supplies at the Norwich Mission House, donations of the following items would be greatly appreciated: new PC laptop; Frontline for 32- to 40-pound dog; Ziploc bags (gallon, quart and smaller sizes); U.S. stamps; and batteries (D and AA).

Also, there are special needs at various projects for the following: children's chewable vitamins; Band-Aids; triple antibiotic cream; deodorant; underwear (toddler to adult, for male and female); socks (boys athletic; girl's dress with ruffles).

### People Of Gesu And St. Jude Together

A group from the parish of Gesu in Milwaukee, which is twinned with St. Jude, Mòn Opital, visited during October and joined in the celebration of the Haitian parish's patronal feast.

The Wisconsin delegation met with the pastor, Fr. Bichara, and spoke with several people in the community. Gesu remains committed to funding a daily meal for the schoolchildren of St. Jude and to providing water for the parish cistern.

### Pastor Learning Creole

Fr. Rick Albamonti, pastor of St. Mark's in Westbrook, stayed at NMH for the months of October and November to study the Creole language and to visit the parish that is twinned with his in Connecticut.

St. Mark's is in partnership with Our Lady of Lourdes in Cite Militaire. Fr. Rick hopes to better communicate with parishioners of Cite Militaire, and in one of his visits there, he presented the pastor, Fr. Madlon, with a check for benches for the new parish church and center.

*Bon koraj, pè Rick!*

### Finding A Way To Clean Water

St. Elizabeth Seton, in Rocky Hill, Conn., has been researching the possibility of providing potable water for the community of Saintard, its twinned parish.

In September, a few parishioners of Saintard were taught how to make concrete basins and sand filters for purifying water.

### Fon Baptis Has Guests

The Immaculate Conception parish in Fon Baptis received visitors in November from its sister parish, Church of the Holy Family of Hebron.

The Connecticut delegation visited children and teachers in the parish school whom they support. They also saw the results of an agricultural program that started this fall with help from Rachel Fraleigh and members of All Hallows Church in Moosup, Conn. Their weekend stay included time with parishioners and the pastor, Fr. Toussaint.

## Mission In Haiti Has A New Home

*continued from page 1*

the house has a nearly constant breeze and offers spectacular views of the city above and below.

The interior of the house is simple but spacious. There is an airy entrance, a large dining area, two kitchens (one interior, one exterior), a common room, a chapel space, seven bedrooms, three bathrooms, and an office.

The two-story house presently has the capacity for 11 guests and five full-time staff. There is space for meetings, training seminars, and conferences for organizations that NMH works with and supports. As the ministry invites more Haitian and American parishes to form twinning partnerships and as it opens the residence to more visitors, the new mission house has the potential to expand and adapt to changing needs. A large, flat roof will be an area for expan-



*Enock, a staff member, works in the mission house gardens.*



*Amber Walsh with Fedline at the City of God orphanage.*

sion, likely with more living quarters.

We are assured the new location will not hurt the programs we support, nor will it diminish our work with the children, students, adults, and the various projects of our old neighborhood. Over the years we have established friendships and commitments that a simple move up the road cannot change.

As we move forward, we hope to make new friends and join in the work of more projects, all in an effort to empower more Haitians.

Although it was difficult to leave the old house and the balcony view of Delmas 60, we are excited about owning this house and being part of

this neighborhood. We enthusiastically invite all of our friends and supporters to come. It is you who have made this possible through your continuing support and generosity.

*Byenvini lakay ou! Welcome home!*

## A Note From Fr. Gerry

I long for the day when I can write that the life of the Haitian people is improving. Unfortunately, that day has not arrived. With the start of school in September, the number of students enrolled throughout the country once again is lower than the year before. This is due to rising inflation and higher tuitions. In light of this harsh reality, we are grateful to those who sponsor children in the Tierney-Tobin Memorial Scholarship Fund Program.

The country also remains crippled by the political impasse of the past few years. We join the Haitian people in their hope that, as they celebrate the 200th anniversary of their country's founding, they may finally find the freedom and security that has eluded them all these years.

Know that we at Norwich Mission House hold all of you in our hearts and in our prayers. We are grateful for the many and varied ways in which you support us and our work among the people of Haiti. I offer a special word of thanks to everyone who has contributed to our capital campaign to purchase Norwich Mission House, as well as to those who support this campaign with your prayer. Know that you always are welcome to visit us in our new home!

Peace, Fr. Gerry

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