

Prayer for the Parishes of Corpus Christi and St. Michael the Archangel

Lord Jesus, we stand before you as two communities united in one faith,
Brothers and sisters who desire nothing but to do your will in mutual affection.

Through the intercession of our Blessed Mother,
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Patroness of Haiti, Immaculate Mary, Patroness of the United States,
Lord strengthen our resolve to bring Your love, peace and understanding to all our neighbors.
That together we shall strive to embody your will so the love we share in mutual charity and affection
may be sown, blossom, grow, and transform the whole world.
In Your Holy Name we pray. Amen.



Oración por las parroquias de Corpus Cristi y San Miguel Arcángel

Señor Jesús, estamos ante Ti como dos comunidades unidas en una sola fe,
Hermanos y hermanas que no desean nada más que hacer tu voluntad en mutuo afecto.

A través de la intercession de la Santísima Virgen;
Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro, Patrona de Haití, María Inmaculada, Patrona de los Estados Unidos,
Señor fortalice nuestra determinación de llevar Tu amor, la paz y la comprensión a todos nuestros vecinos.
Para que el amor que compartimos en la caridad y el afecto mutuo pueda ser sembrado, florecer, crecer y
transformen el mundo entero.
En Su Santo Nombre oremos. Amén.

Priyè pou Pawas Corpus Christi ak Sen Michèl Akanj

Jezi kri Granmèt Nou rasanble devan ou tankou 2 kominote ki ini nan menm lafwa, Frè ak Sè k'ap chèche
fè volonte ou nan renmen yonn pou lòt.

Gras a lapriyè Imakile Lavyèj Mari, Manman Pèpetyèl Sekou,
Patwònn Ayiti, ak Etazini,

Se pou Bondye Granmèt la elkere desizyon nou yo pou yo pote fwi lanmou, lapè ak konpreyansyon bay
tout Frè ak Sè nou yo.

Konsa, nan tèt ansanm na rive fe volonte ou pou renmen nou genyen yon pou lòt nan charite ak
sansibilite-a jèmen, fleri, grandi epi transfòme limonite.

Lou priye ou nan Non Jezi Kri,
Li menm ki Vivan pou tout tan gen tan. Amèn.



Mission Statement
Corpus Christi Haiti Ministry

The Corpus Christi Haiti Committee engages with our sister parish, St. Michael the Archangel Parish....
To jointly discern, through the Holy Spirit, activities that enhance the spiritual and temporal needs of both parishes

To engage parishioners of all ages in medical, educational and other mission trips that nurture our spiritual solidarity

To experience, through prayerful activities, the manifestation of being Christ to each other

To develop long term relationships and projects for a sustainable improvement in the lives of all parishioners

To manifest through prayerful reflection and sacramental activities that our stewardship of God's gifts extends to all of His families.

Composed February 2011 with the help of Deacon David Lesieur

I. Brief overview of our relationship with St. Michael the Archangel in Dilaire, Haiti:

- In 2006, Father Waters, pastor of Corpus Christi, and Father Janvier Joseph, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel in Dilaire, Haiti, formally established a parish twinning relationship. "Twinning is a process by which we come to know and enter into a long term mutual relationship with a Church in the developing world."

- Corpus Christi had their first Parish Mission Trip to Haiti June 2 – 11, 2010, which offered professional medical care from a volunteer team of physicians, nurses and support personnel: *"The vitamins, pain relievers and every hygiene kit were given to families and individuals. The building where we stayed was completed with roof, screens, bathrooms and showers due to your financial gifts. 1678 people were seen, several lives were saved and many lives were helped."*

- Medical Mission continued, partnered with the University of South Florida, until civil unrest in 2019 and COVID in 2020 prevented group travel. Generally, a smaller group would travel in the fall and the larger mission would travel in the spring. In 2018 "there were 2,142 patients seen by 11 doctors and 4 nurses, with the assistance of 15 translators, 25 parishioners of St. Michael's, a laboratory, and many other support personnel. The oldest patient was in their 90's and the youngest was a newborn."

- In September 2019, Dr. Richard Morrison, Dr. Javier Cuevas and Annmarie Nichter traveled to Haiti to visit and conduct some medical visits.

- New Pastor appointed to St. Michael the Archangel is Father Jutshley Florelus (July 2020?)

- Corpus Christi continues to provide parish support to St. Michael the Archangel at the rate of \$1,200 per month. In 2020, we sent a total of \$31,750 to St. Michael's in Dilaire, Haiti. \$21,750 for parish support (January 2020 – June 2021) and \$10,000 for two projects approved by the Finance Council. \$50 is added to each wire to cover their cost at the receiving parish. Donations to Corpus Christi designated for Haiti are still coming in. With the current funds on hand,

(approximately \$18,000) we could provide the agreed upon parish support for another year, but would need to look at other sources of funding beyond June 2022.

II. What is Parish Twinning All About?

WHY TWINNING? WHY HAITI?

Why Twinning: the missionary spirit of the gospel is more easily learned and embraced through a commitment to one spiritual cause for a sustained period of time. When we enter into a long term mission relationship, we get past our first good reaction, which is to try to solve systematic human problems like abject poverty by only donating our excess material goods. Twinning allows us to go deeper and to learn what is possible if we really bring our spiritual faith to bear on a human problem. Human problems are solved through sustained efforts of compassion. We need to understand the problem from the viewpoint of our brothers and sisters who suffer with it daily. We have to learn how to stand in equality and solidarity with our brothers and sisters, to affirm their human dignity, to offer them human faces to partner with and human hands to hold as they seek to build a future for themselves with greater possibility and greater hope.

Why Haiti? Several reasons: (1) Haiti is close. Haiti is in our hemisphere and in our circle of influence. (2) The poverty and human deprivation that exist in Haiti are of an unimaginable magnitude. Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world and its political situation causes a frustration and hopelessness that increases the impact of poverty on Haiti's people. (3) Our countrymen and women are not paying sufficient attention to the plight of the Haitian people. There is a large effort on the part of Christians to help Haiti but there remains an overall blindness to Haiti and there is significant prejudice among our brothers and sisters towards the plight of Haitians. (4) The vast majority of the Haitian people are Catholic brothers and sisters to us. The Church is one of the few institutions of global reach that can offer effective support directly to the people of Haiti as they seek a better future for themselves. For these reasons the people of Haiti are a modern day equivalent for us of the gospel parable of poor man Lazarus: like Lazarus, the people of Haiti stand at the gate of our vast wealth and prosperity crying out for human compassion. It is important to our salvation that we notice them and move ourselves to help them. *Reprinted from the Parish Bulletin, March 5, 2006*

St. John Paul II: "Nobody is so poor that he or she has nothing to give, and nobody is so rich that he or she has nothing to receive."

III. Leadership & Organizational Development

It is important that both the U.S. and the overseas parish encourage lay leadership and create an organizational structure (e.g. committee, task force, working group) to guide and lead the partnership. If the responsibility lies only with the pastors, or the general parish council, the partnership becomes very vulnerable to leadership changes, the pastor's priorities, and other parish commitments. To ensure mutuality and joint decision-making, it is helpful to establish a representative body in each parish who can interact with each other as equals to set priorities, create plans, mobilize people and resources to implement activities, and occasionally assess the progress and direction of the partnership. This group of people should not only represent the larger parish community, but also reach out to different members and groups in the parish, inviting them to become involved in the partnership according to their interests and gifts.

It is important to remember that most parishes in the United States already have functioning committees to manage many of their programs and ministries. An overseas parish may or may not have this experience, and so the U.S. partner will need to be careful about imposing the development of this committee on a parish that has no understanding of the role it might play. In this case, the U.S. parish can lead the way through example, by showing the overseas pastor the advantages of forming such a structure. However, the final decision about whether and how to form a committee is in the hands of the local pastor. **Source: Catholic Relief Services, Parish Partnership Manual**

Reciprocity: Can they see past our wealth to see who we really are? Can we see past their poverty to see who they really are?

IV. Where do we go from here?

- **The establishment of a committee at Corpus Christi is vital to guide and lead the partnership.**
- **Regular communication between members of the committee at Corpus Christi and parishioners at St. Michael's**
- **Funding for St. Michael's**
- **Return to St. Michael's?**
- **Father Flo visiting Corpus Christi?**

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

O Gloriosimo San Miguel Arcángel, príncipe y caudillo de los ejércitos celestiales, custio y defensor de las almas, guarda de la Iglesia. Humildemente te rogamos, te dignes librarnos de todo mal a los que a ti recurrimos con confianza; que tu favor no ampare, tu Fortaleza nos defienda y que, mediante tu incomparable protección adelantemos cada vez más en el servicio del Señor; que tu virtud nos dé fortaleza todos los días de nuestra vida, especialmente en el trance de la muerte, para que, defendidos por tu poder, cuando salgamos de este mundo seamos presentados por ti, libres de toda culpa, ante la Divina Majestad. Amén.