

WHAT IS THE STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM?

Our Student Sponsorship Program began in 2000. It involves students from the primary and secondary schools in St. Michel, our sister parish in Haiti. Support of \$100 per year for primary/elementary and \$200 for secondary pays for the educational expenses of a child which includes tuition support, books, school supplies, uniforms and a daily hot meal and vitamin.

Ecole St. Michel, the primary school, is operated by the Little Sisters of St. Therese, a Haitian order; while College St. Michel, the secondary school, is ran by Fr. Michenet Duportal, the parish priest. The schools offer education from pre-school through Philo. The teachers are Haitian nationals who have completed the appropriate training and education. As of September 2017, there were 1500 students enrolled in both schools. The generous support of our parishioners and Haiti friends of the sponsorship program, the 5K race and memorial gifts has allowed us to continue providing access to education for children and young women and men in St. Michel. Our sponsorship started with 100 students 18 years ago and since then we have sponsored close to 5,000 students. A number of them have given back to their communities to serve as priests, nuns, teachers, nurses and government officials.

Because all of our Haiti Outreach ministers are volunteers, 100% of your sponsorship support goes directly toward tuition support, books, uniforms and a daily hot meat and vitamin.

School support is only one aspect of our twinning ministry which involves a very close partnership with Sacred Heart Cathedral, Knoxville, TN and St. Anselm in St. Louis, MO. Other areas include parish support, medical care and community development activities.

WHO ARE THE CHILDREN?

The children available for sponsorship live in Boucan-Carre, some in the village proper, and some, many miles away. Many of the residents in this village are subsistence farmers and make barely enough to feed their families, much less send their children to school. The children of St. Michel's primary school range in age from 3 – 25 yrs old in preschool to sixth grade. 50% of the population of Haiti is below the age of 20 which explains why 18% of the children at the school are 5 yrs. old or younger. The students of St. Michel's have done very well on the national exams. Many thanks to the dedicated Haitian professors who believe that education is the key to changing their lives for the better.

THE LUNCH PROGRAM.

Having learned that many of the students come to school hungry, the sponsorship program includes a hot lunch provided during the school day. For many of the children in the program, this may be the only meal they have for the day.

MAY I WRITE TO MY CHILD?

Yes! Your child and his/her family will be thrilled with your letters, cards, and photos. We prefer that you address your letter to the school. The sisters will handle translation of your letter. The address is:

Ecole St. Michel, c/o Presbytere de Boucan-Carre
B.P. 1594
Via Port-au-Prince, Haiti, W.I.

MAY I SEND GIFTS TO MY CHILD?

We do not encourage gifts in kind or money. We try to protect the children from inferior feelings over elaborate gifts for some and not for others. We have also been made aware of problems that gifts, even \$1, can create for the recipient or family.

HOW DO I BEGIN A SPONSORSHIP?

- Choose a student from the notebooks on display at the Haiti table. Available after each mass.
- Complete the sponsorship form.
- Payment may be done annually, semi-annually, quarterly or monthly.
- Make check out to "St. Kateri Tekakwitha". Add a note: "Haiti Sponsorship".
- If you have to mail the check, mail to:
Haiti Student Sponsorhip Program
St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Church
3800 Big Bethel Rd.
Tabb VA 23693.

Please do **not** deposit check in the collection basket.
Your donations are tax deductible.

IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS, WHOM MAY I CONTACT?

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